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SOCIETY FOR BETTERING THE  
CONDITION... OF THE POOR

VOL 4







THE  
REPORTS  
OF  
THE SOCIETY  
FOR  
BETTERING THE CONDITION  
AND  
INCREASING THE COMFORTS  
OF THE POOR.

VOL. IV.

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*1st February, 1805.*



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TO THE  
FOURTH VOLUME,  
ADDRESSED TO THE  
RIGHT HONOURABLE  
HENRY ADDINGTON,  
*&c. &c. &c.*

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MY DEAR SIR,

I FEEL a real and enviable gratification, in addressing *personally* to you the fourth volume of the Reports of the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor.—At an infant and doubtful period of our establishment, we had the pleasure of enrolling your name on the committee, and of receiving

your decided sentiment in favor of the plan and objects of the society.—Greater and more important duties have precluded your personal attendance.—We are not unaware that there are extraordinary emergencies of high official situation, where *all* the vigour and labour and power of the mind, and *every moment* of application assiduously employed, can only equal the call for exertion. Attentions, which in my private and retired walk of life may be approved as directed to an appropriate object, might in your station be a neglect of office and a dereliction of duty.

The history of the world will appear to  
General view of the subject. have been composed of alternate periods of improvement and deterioration;—of years, when vice and misery have made successful inroads on mankind, and have increased and prevailed from supineness and neglect; and of other times, when those scourges of the human race have seceded and given way, driven back and compelled by the exertions of individuals



to better and benefit their species.—That the latter may be *our period* of history, is the *ruling and predominant object* of the society, on behalf of which, I have the honour of addressing you.—I am sensible that, with more knowledge, and with much greater advantages, your mind must have anticipated some of the observations, which I have to submit to you ; and that, in many instances, your information will have enabled you to judge of causes and consequences, with a correctness and certainty, to which I cannot pretend. When, however, I venture to obtrude on your time and on the attention of the public, I hope I am not guilty of any *presuming* trust in myself ; and, at the same time, that I shall not want that *confidence and earnestness of spirit*, which the nature of the subject, and the importance of the discussion, authorise and demand. A mind dwelling frequently and anxiously on one object, and devoting *all its power* to a practical and experimental investigation of its bearings, its motives, and effects—however inferior in original

strength and acuteness—may still hope to produce those fruits of *persevering industry*, which seldom fail, after the art has been once acquired of directing a continued labour and attention to a single point.

The benefits to which the poor are intitled, from the paternal and  
Division into three parts. superintending care of government, and from the brotherly and individual efforts of the other members of society, may be reduced under three heads :—THE PREVENTION OF VICE AND CONTAGION ;—THE PROMOTION OF VIRTUE AND INDUSTRY ;—and the general diffusion of MORAL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.—By the first, the incidental evils of congregated and populous society are corrected and diminished ;—by the second, the precepts of our pure religion are carried into action, and the impulse of necessity is made subservient to the happiness of man ;—and by the third, a succession of useful and virtuous members is provided for the benefit and security of the state.

In considering the first of these topics, I shall have to observe upon the influence of *example*, on the habits of the poor, by the apparent neglect of the *Sabbath*,—upon the injury done them, by the comparative facility of procuring *ardent spirits*, and by the annual temptation of *lotteries*,—upon the *moral infection* produced by some of our *theatrical representations*, and upon the danger which may be apprehended from the unmeasured and unregulated extension of our *manufactures*.—To this I shall have to add some strictures on the present mode and principle of *parochial relief*; and after a few words on *mendicity*, and its blighting influence on the energy of the labourer, shall conclude this part of my subject with remarks on the calamitous and fatal effects, which *contagious fever* produces in the habitations of the poor.

1st. The Prevention of vice and contagion.

Among the frail and imperfect creatures of *habit* and *imitation*, the influence of *precept* must even be weak and

Powerful effect of example.

impotent, when compared with the effect of *example*;—especially when that example emanates from an height, to which *the eyes of the million* are directed.—Among the fortunate circumstances, which have *powerfully checked* our tendency to moral depravity, I place in the first rank, the virtuous and excellent example, which has been afforded to their subjects, by the TWO MOST ELEVATED INDIVIDUALS in the kingdom. Their influence has been continued and diffused through a favoured and extended reign. It is felt, and we pray *it may long be felt*, in every part of their dominions.—I omit, however, to expatiate on this pleasing topic, or to enumerate other advantages which we possess;—being more anxious to submit to your consideration circumstances, hostile to the good habits of the poor, and calling upon public or individual exertion for correction and amendment.

A source, from which much evil, and  
 As to the breach of the Sabbath. an infectious corruptness of manners, have directed their baneful

course through the land, *is the open and habitual breach of the SABBATH.*—When I refer to the religious observance of that day, I have no view to any austere severity; but I adopt the sentiments\* of an amiable and eminent Prelate, whose lectures have lately awakened, and improved, the higher ranks of society in the metropolis. Consecrated as this day hath been to the useful purpose of relieving the human mind from the cares and concerns of this world, and of preparing it for the hopes and happiness of another, it is a melancholy truth that, in some instances, the Sabbath passes without observation; and, in others, is profaned by an excess of vice and debauchery, beyond the ordinary course of the week.—In cases of this nature, pains and penalties can produce little or no effect. They may compel an apparent and a temporary reform; and, for a short period, drive vice into her hiding place; but unless the *root* of the disease be

\* See the Bishop of London's Sixth Lecture.



removed, its strength and vehemence will be renewed with increasing malignity.

Of the causes of the breach of the Sabbath,  
 Two causes the first, and the most prominent,  
 of the breach is the *want of education* among  
 of it among the Poor. Without early habits,  
 the poor. Without early instruction in moral and  
 and without early instruction in moral and  
 religious duties, what can be expected from  
 mature life; especially if no provision is  
 made for their accommodation in our *chapels*\*  
 and *churches*; nor any means thereby af-  
 forded them, of acquiring that habitual  
 knowledge of the *doctrines and duties of*  
*Christianity*, which the precepts and ex-  
 ample of our Saviour, and the principles of  
 our secession from the Romish Church, di-  
 rect to be preached and propounded to all.

\* The accounts of the Free Church at Bath and of  
 the Free Chapel in West-street, are inserted in the  
 Reports No. 63, and 78. I have a pleasure in adding,  
 that there is a prospect of TWO OTHER FREE CHAPELS  
 being soon established; with the consequence, I trust,  
 of these examples being so far prevalent, as to leave the  
 want of them in this country no longer a subject of  
 fruitless regret.



Besides this, the *example* of those to whom their elevated situation in life gives an enlarged scope, and more extensive influence, does Effect of example in this respect. not appear to be calculated in this respect, to make an useful impression on the poor. There are many, who are not wanting in their religious duties, either public or private,—either at church or at home; and not deficient in the knowledge, or in the belief, of Christianity:—yet, by a novel and perverted species of HYPOCRISY, contrive to appear worse than they really are; and, in the visible and apparent commerce of the world, make no ostensible difference between Sunday and any other day of the week.—Our houses of Parliament, our courts of justice, our places of public entertainment,—our shops, our counting houses, and the *palaces of our mercantile corporations*, are all shut on this sacred day. But the vacancy of occupation is supplied by engagements, not less hostile, in example, to the morals of the poor. The SABBATH is now reserved, and set apart, *as an open*

*day* for the exhibitions of the vain, the feasts of the opulent, the concerts of the idle, and the philosophical meetings of the learned ; while the menial servant and the casual passenger, within and without the doors, are corrupted and deteriorated by the example of those, to whom they should look up for instruction and amendment.

The use of ARDENT SPIRITS, like every other species of *self murder*, is an act of despondency. Two successive seasons of scarcity, and a consequent depression of the strength and spirit of the poor, have induced many, for the first time, to recur to spirituous liquors ; and have thus fatally increased the prevalence of the destructive habit of *dram-drinking*. What are its effects upon the *individual*, is feelingly and accurately delineated by an eminent physician ;\* who

\* See *Dr. Willan's* account of the effects of the intemperate use of spirituous liquors, No. 5 of Appendix to Vol. 3.—The *increase* of the number of *gin-shops* within the last ten years, and the disgraceful and insulting *splendor* and *elegance* with which they are decorated,

has had peculiar means of correctly ascertaining, and appreciating, its daily havock among the poor of London.—*No power of usefulness,—no source of comfort,—no love,—no sympathy,—no kindred or social affection,*—continues to exist, after this dreadful habit is once engrafted in the constitution. THE MORAL SENSE SEEMS OBLITERATED ;—and the wretched victim becomes a morbid and noxious incumbrance to that community, of which he once had been a valued and useful member.

Precedents are not wanting, even in our own period of history, of the power of the legislature to check the prevalence of this odious and destructive malady. I will select one example from the middle of the

How these effects have been checked.

must have been the subject of observation to every one. A different and superior order of visitants do now haunt these *abodes of suicide*. To them, and to all, I earnestly recommend DR. WILLAN'S account of the *Effects of Dram-drinking, and THE MODE OF CURE*. It has been printed by the Society in a separate cheap publication, and is intended to be inserted in a subsequent part of this volume.

preceding century; when the evil had increased to such a magnitude, as to impress with horror the careless and indifferent passenger.—At that crisis, *a solitary revenue act* instantaneously checked this epidemic disease; and reduced the consumption of ardent spirits to a third of the former quantity.—I will add a more recent instance.—During the late scarcity, the Scotch distilleries were stopt for a very short time. This *limited cessation* produced, however, even a change of character among those lower and illiterate persons, who had been accustomed to the daily use of spirituous liquors.

I do not presume to offer my sentiments upon the difficult subject of finance.—If the poor, however, under our present system of taxation, can obtain the means of gratification *by ardent spirits, at a much lower and easier rate*, than by the use of *malt liquor*, I will venture to ask, whether it is not rather the *defect of the law*, than the culpability of the sufferer? And if,

Suggestions  
on the sub-  
ject.

under such disadvantages, any of them have the virtue and fortitude to resist the temptation, whether their conduct is not highly meritorious? I will also presume to submit to you (as to one whose attention is actively awake to every consideration of this kind) that any financial regulation, which will increase the use of *malt liquor*, and diminish the proportional consumption of *ardent spirits*, will save a *daily* sacrifice of THOUSANDS; and thereby preserve rich and abundant sources of national strength and prosperity.

The bad effects, produced on the habits of the poor by *lotteries* (anted-  
cedently to the late regula-  
tions for which the public is  
so deeply indebted to you), were general and excessive. How far, however, any regulations will *ever* prove effectual, to resist the goading and stimulating interest, which impels a numerous class of men to evade them, is not as yet sufficiently ascertained.  
—The former evils of lottery offices, and of

The effects of  
lotteries on  
the poor.



insurance offices, were of a nature and magnitude to attract general observation ; tho' their specific effects were more peculiarly in the view of those tradesmen, or shopkeepers, who live by supplying the poor with the common necessities of life. During the drawing of the lottery, the little chandler's shop, the botching taylor, and every tradesman whose custom depends on the poor (*gin-shops, lottery offices, and pawnbrokers* excepted) experienced a temporary stagnation in their business ; while, in many dreadful instances, every penny which the artisan or labourer, his wife or children, and very often servants\* of respectable families, could obtain,—sometimes by industry, but too frequently by pawning, by stealing, and (among the female sex) by prostitution,—was thrown with eager importunity into the *vortex* of

\* In families, where old servants, long *charactered* for strict integrity and fidelity, have proved guilty of any criminal breach of trust, there are few instances of such dereliction of character and probity, in which the first operating cause has not been their having yielded to the temptation of insuring in a lottery.



an insurance office; and the deluded sufferer left to have recourse to more vicious and more criminal habits, in the hopes of recovering back what his folly had dissipated.

They who are disposed to consider the DRAMA, as the amusement merely of the higher or middle classes of life, will hardly be persuaded how much the character of the poor Effects of stage plays on the poor. is injured by *profane and immoral representations on the stage*. The many, who occupy the gallery of a theatre, bring with them no antidote against the poison that is offered to them; but view the scene before them, with a full persuasion that it is a true and faithful picture of human life and manners. The poor may not, perhaps, be liable to the infection, which lurks under the *supposititious morality* of the German drama. But their principles, their language, and their habits of life, are inevitably corrupted, not only by the plays of the profligate age of the second Charles, but by some more recent

productions:—and thousands of deluded wretches have been initiated in vice and villainy, and have been brought to a fatal and ignominious end, by the *licenced* representation of the Beggar's Opera; sanctioned (as they conceive) by HIM, who *having power to prohibit*, is, according to the legal maxim, presumed to approve.

In those MANUFACTURES, where numbers of children and other persons are collected and employed, without parental protection, and without any discrimination of age, or sex, or character, it will appear from some of the reports, how necessary it is become, that the Legislature should pay a constant attention to their effects, not only on the health and morals of the poor, but also on their domestic habits and employments. While it continues our ruling object to undersell all the world, by processes for abridging labour, by the improvement of machinery, and by the extension of our factories, we may, without care and attention on our part, reduce

the scale of *morality* and *happiness* in this country, to as low and *cheap* a rate, as the price of *our manufactures*.

Great and essential injury is done to the habits and energy of the poor, by the manner in which PARISH RELIEF is too often administered. On the mode of parish relief. Cases do very frequently occur, where the idle, the dissolute, and the clamorous, have by importunity wrung from the overseer that unmerited bounty, which the modest and industrious do vainly strive to obtain;\* and there have been very few instances of parochial aid, within my own range of observation, where a marked and distinctive line has been

\* Nothing is more hostile to the improvement of *parochial relief*, than the FARMING of workhouses: a system which makes the *profit* of the person intrusted incompatible with his *duty*;—which gives power and authority to one who has no interest in the permanent improvement, or in the moral character, of those over whom he presides, and who has no inducement to regard the prior character of the *necessitous aged*, or to look forward to the *future hopes* of the RISING AND UNPROTECTED GENERATION.

drawn, between the idle and profligate, and the honest and industrious. This has produced very pernicious effects on the habits of the cottager.—How far those effects may be corrected, and how the consequences of that correction may be advantageously extended, will appear by some very gratifying details\* in the preceding Reports.

\* In our publications, the reader will find a variety of information respecting the *mode* of affording relief to the poor.—Of the examples, the first in point of *time* was that of STOKE HUNDRED (*Report No. 7*), where the object had been to make *industry* and *character* requisite to *favourable* relief; and at the same time to obtain, what has proved very useful in that Hundred, a *register* of the conduct and circumstances of the poor. The principles adopted in Stoke Hundred have been enforced by the CHARGE TO OVERSEERS (*Vol. I. App. 4*) delivered in that Hundred, and by the *Case and Opinion* (*Vol. III. App. 15*) on the 43d of Elizabeth.—During the scarcity, the mode of relief at MONGEWELL (*Report, No. 70*), has been judiciously accommodated by the BISHOP OF DURHAM to the pressure of the times; and the example has happily been followed, in many parts of the kingdom. These improvements have been still further extended at Whelford, Wendover, and at Shipton Moyne (*Reports 80, 85, 86*); in the latter of which parishes, MR. ESTCOURT has introduced a general system of relief, so judicious and unexceptionable, that it is intitled to praise and imitation in every part of the kingdom.—Of the arrangement and conduct

If charity were suddenly withheld from the wretched class of *Actors*, <sup>Effects of</sup> who are ranged in the public mendicity. streets under the name of BEGGARS, many unfortunate persons might perish with the artful impostor. It is, however, obvious that the display of the cunning and *thriv- ing* mendicant must necessarily chill the warmth and energy of industry;—of him who, with a renewal of severe toil, cannot earn in the day even *a third part* of what the other acquires by *a few hours* of clamorous and importunate mendicity. Of this inconvenience a part at least would be corrected if those, who are disposed to give to the common beggar, would only make an *occasional inquiry* after the situation and circumstances of the object of their bounty. For an entire remedy, the friends

of a poorhouse, that of Mr. Gilpin at BOLDRE (*Report No. 32*), furnishes a gratifying example: and the management of the Poor at HAMBURGH (*Report No. 40*) and the Reports (*No. 49, and 57*) of the DUBLIN House of Industry, for which that city is so much indebted to LORD PELHAM, will supply a great deal of useful information on that subject.



of the poor must wait for the adoption, in this country, of some liberal and enlightened plan of police, similar to those which have done honour to other countries.\*

It remains to notice another circumstance, which has of late, in every part of the empire, been the subject of attention and investigation; and in which you have interested yourself, in a warm and an honourable manner. I mean the prevalence of **CONTAGIOUS FEVER** among the poor;—a cause of the annual and untimely death of

\* In enumerating those causes, which are injurious to the moral character of the poor in this country, I may be asked why greater and more pernicious effects have not been produced?—I answer, first by again referring to the influence of **ROYAL EXAMPLE**;—and next, by stating the effects of *charity schools* and of *Sunday schools*, and the constant and unceasing operation of **HOPE**, which, in this free and energetic country, is afforded to *all*, of rising either in a mercantile or professional situation;—and lastly; by observing on the gradual effects of the **CHRISTIAN DISPENSATION**, not only in bettering the *Condition* of the Poor, but in doing what is of still more *value*,—meliorating the *character* of human nature.



thousands, many of them in the prime of life.—The inhabitant of the spacious and airy mansion can have *no conception* of the sufferings which, from this cause, the poor undergo in their close and crowded apartments ; or of the number of those,\* who daily perish, *unheard* and *unseen* ; and sometimes without a friend, or a relative, to close their eyes.—He may not imagine it possible, that the greater part of the inhabitants of some petty neighbourhood should have been swept away in a few weeks, in consequence of that *unremedied infection*, by which the preceding tenants have perished, and to which their successors must soon be victims.—To check the progress of this evil in the metropolis, and to purify the infected dwellings of the poor,—these are the objects of the FEVER INSTITUTION ; in which, tho the appeal to the public has not yet been so successful as in

\* See the case of Nicholas Terry and wife, in the Report of the Sub-committee, No. 3 of Appendix to the third Volume.—Indeed the reader cannot look into any of the cases in that Report, without finding melancholy evidence of what is here stated.

other instances or in other places,\* yet the efforts and exertions of the conductors have been attended with as much proportional benefit and success, as in any other attempt which has been made by the Society, to give effect and operation to its plans for bettering the Condition of the Poor.

Fatal, however, as is the progress of vice and contagion, I will not venture  
 2d. On the promotion of virtue and industry. to assert that those *epidemic diseases* have done so much injury to the moral character of the poor, as the *neglect of their real and estimable virtues*.—  
 If we would but pay attention to the efforts

\* For information with respect to the cure and prevention of *contagious fevers* among the poor, the reader is referred to the account of the MANCHESTER House of Recovery (*Reports, No. 13 and 58*), to the account of the FEVER INSTITUTION (*Report, No. 92*); to No. 2 of the Appendix to the second Volume, and to No. 3, 8, and 9, of the Appendix to the third Volume. A very interesting Paper of Dr. Dimsdale's on the beneficial effects of *cold affusion* in cases of contagion, will be given in a subsequent part of this Volume. The example of Chester and Manchester has been lately followed in many parts of the united kingdoms, with great promise of public and individual benefit.

and privations of the day labourer, in bringing up and supporting a large family, to the early and the late hours of work, and to the severe and incessant toil which he undergoes ;—and if we would but consider how small a portion—to sooth and to sweeten that toil—*he* is destined to enjoy of those comforts, which *we* are habituated to consider as *essential ingredients* in the cup of life ;—if we would, I say, but fairly appreciate these circumstances, we might then form our estimate of those, who, deriving not merely the comforts but the abundant luxuries and indulgencies of life from his labour, know not even the path to his *neighbouring* threshold ; but withhold all enquiry into his merits or sufferings.—If he is assailed by sickness, or by any other calamity from which even unceasing industry can plead no exemption, what shall we say *of our own conduct*, if we pass by on the other side ?—while our alms and oblations are lavished with careless indifference, on the clamorous beggar at the gin shop, or

on the fashionable and sentimental mendicant.

The industrious labourer, however, hath this consolation, that *his Duty* is as limited as his *enjoyment*. If he doth not possess great riches, extensive influence, and unrestrained power, yet he is exempted from the alarming and accumulated responsibility, attached to those advantages. We are taught that “to whom much is given, of him much will be required.”—When wealth, talent, and influence, are abundantly concentrated in one individual, the DUTIES become *awful and formidable*. They demand great exertion.—In such a case, so often the subject of envy to the many, every step of advancement, every increase of wealth or power, is an accession of difficulty and danger.

For practical information on the effects of those measures, which in different parts of the British isles have

Effect of property on the poor.



been adopted for promoting the virtue and the industry of the poor, I will venture to refer to the publications of the CORK SOCIETY,\* to the five Reports of the SOCIETY AT DUBLIN,† and to our

\* The account of the *Cork* society is given in the Reports, No. 54, and 71. The *Christian charity* in which this society was originally founded (the Bishop of Cork being the president, the titular, or Roman Catholic, bishop of that city being a vice president, and the secretary being the Rev. Mr. Hincks, the dissenting minister at Cork) has been already noticed in these Reports; but the activity and exertions of this society has not received its due commendation. I shall not even attempt to do it complete justice. For a detail of their proceedings the reader is referred to that society's Report for 1801, and to the recent account of their institutions by the Rev. Mr. Hincks. The unexceptionable plan of their friendly society, and the extension of their system of rewards, I have already noticed. Their charitable loan, their debtor's charity, coal company, benevolent repository, schools of industry, and house of recovery, and their other efforts in favour of suffering humanity, offer decisive evidence that Christian charity is not *less zealous*, because it is *more tolerating*.

† The account of the Dublin Society, will be found in the Report, No. 62. Among the many interesting articles in the Dublin Reports, the preference of different individuals would be various. To myself the house of recovery at Waterford, the society of the "*friends of education*" at New Ross, and the well arranged plan of the *Killaloe schools* (founded by the BISHOP OF KILLALOE, with so liberal and exemplary a contribution

own preceding volumes. — The stimulus afforded to the human mind, by the prospect of property and independance, is so powerful, that the instances are very rare, in which it hath not essentially benefited both the labourer, and the community ; relieving the latter from the duty of *supplying* that support, which the other hath incomparably more satisfaction

from Mr. HENRY the land owner) appear deserving of all praise and imitation. The establishment of Societies for bettering the Condition of the Poor at *Dublin, Cork, Sligo, Carrick, Kilkenny, Donamayne, and New Ross*, must be very gratifying to the London Society. The detail of the measures taken by the “ Dublin Association for “ discountenancing vice, and for promoting the knowledge and practice of the Christian religion,” cannot fail of giving pleasure to every friend of religion and civil order. This association has, among other things, distributed among the poor in Ireland 10,000 bibles, and 12,000 testaments ; some as rewards for progress in scripture knowledge, and others as the means of attaining it. They are now advancing towards their original object ;—THAT NO HOUSE OR CABIN IN IRELAND, IN WHICH THERE IS A SINGLE PERSON WHO CAN READ, SHALL BE DESTITUTE OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.—I cannot conclude this note without congratulating our sister island, upon the great attention which the Lord Lieutenant, the EARL OF HARDWICKE, and MR. WICKHAM, the Secretary, are paying to the improvement of the character and condition of their poor.



in *deriving from his own exertions*. \*—Whether it be the power of acquiring a cottage, a garden, a cow, or a pig,—whether the DEMESNE to be *tenanted*, and *cultivated*, and *stocked*, consist of *acres* or *perches*,—the effect is similar ;—tho the proportion is increased or diminished, according to the intrinsic value of the promised object, and the unfailing certainty of attainment.

The supplying of the cottager's family with instruction, and assistance, On employing in procuring *employment*, † is both the poor, &c.

\* “ Property,” says Dr. Paley, “ communicates a “ charm to whatever is the object of it. It is the first “ of our abstract ideas ; it cleaves to us the closest and “ the longest. It endears to the child its plaything, to “ the peasant his cottage, and to the land holder his “ estate.”—What might be its beneficial effects in promoting industry, and prudence, and stability of conduct, among the poor, if more opportunity and encouragement were offered them of acquiring property, cannot be precisely ascertained :—we can, however, estimate the importance and certainty of the advantages, by what has been done on LORD WINCHILSEA'S estate (*Reports*, No. 14, 17, and 60), and in other instances (*Reports*, No. 41, and 53, and *App. No. 14, of Vol. III.*) and by what has been effected by the Tadcaster and Shelford Cottagers.

† For modes of giving employment to the poor, see

a spur to his industry, and a relief to his necessity. Useful effects may also be produced by some other charities, which, without removing the incitement to industry, may calm his anxiety, and encourage his exertion. Of many of these acts of benevolence, the cost and trouble are so trivial, and the effects so satisfactory and useful, that it seems a matter of surprise that they are not universal.—Such is the supply of *medicines* to the sick,—the loan of *linen* to pregnant women,—the letting out (and enabling the purchase by instalments) of *blankets* to the unprovided,—the encouraging of good habits and industry, not only by *rewards*,\* but by the most economical of

the Reports, No. 4 of Oakham school,—No. 29, Le-wisham School,—No. 37, Bamburgh school,—No. 44, the Liverpool school for the blind.—No. 65, the Bath Repository,—and No. 98, the Manchester Repository.—In the subsequent part of this Volume an attempt will be made to ascertain, how far the injury to the poor by the loss of spinning by hand, may be supplied by their employment in straw platting.

\* For the plan of encouraging the *virtues* and *good conduct* of the poor by rewards, the reader may consult MR. CONYERS account (*Reports*, No. 27) of the society at Epping; No. 43 of the society near Dublin; No. 51 of

all charities—*praise and commendation*, where due,—the distribution of *skim milk*,—the supplying of the labourer with *food* and *fuel* at prime cost,—the improvement of his cleanliness and morals, by *white-washing* his cottage,—the investing of a trifling sum, at lawful interest, towards the erection of a *parish mill*,\*—and the encouragement by a small honorary subscription, of orderly and well regulated *friendly societies*.

the Sussex Agricultural Society; and No. 71 the account of the Cork society, which has extended the influence of reward to good *management*, and to domestic and personal cleanness.

\* See the account of the mill at Barham Downs in the *Report*, No. 8;—and in No. 48, that of the mill at Chislehurst.—The reader, who wishes to refer to the information collected by the Society on the other subjects mentioned in this paragraph, will find that on white-washing poorhouses and cottages in the *Report*, No. 15; and that on whitewashing and purifying houses infected with fever, in No. 3 of the Appendix to the 3d volume. That on supplying blankets is in *Reports* No. 11 and 91;—on milk, No. 23 and 75;—and on supplies of food and fuel at prime cost, in *Reports*, No. 2, 9, 34, 42, 67, 72, 76, and 79.—For examples of friendly societies the reader is referred to the *Reports*, No. 1, and No. 66, which contain the two prominent examples of CASTLE EDEN and CORK friendly societies. In 36,

But of all the means of soothing the  
3d.—Of distresses, improving the habits,  
education. and encouraging the virtues, of  
the poor, none will be found more gratifying, or more effectual, than a general and impartial provision for the EDUCATION of their children.—The *affection* and the *interest* of the parent is ever, through the boundless variety of creation, increased with the *necessity* of the offspring. The cottager, hopeless of elevation himself, looks with desire and anxiety to the prosperity of his child : and where, by the influence of education extended to every class of life,—talent, industry, and prudence, are enabled to rise in the world, the weakest and most prejudiced mind will see the use of the gradations of rank and wealth ; and will be sensible of their beneficial effects, in stimulating the activity and industry of individuals, and thereby infusing health, vigour, and vital strength, into the body politic.

46, and 84, he will find plans for female friendly societies ; and in *No. 47 and 89*, the details of two sunday societies for the aged at Winston and Auckland.



A system of moral and religious instruction, *connecting the rising generation with our civil and ecclesiastical establishment*, is not only the first and most beneficial act of charity, but the wisest and most politic measure of the state. At the present awful crisis of the world, it is of increased and accumulated consequence ; as the hope and expectation of the country will, in a great degree, depend upon its effect and influence.—Whether we regard, generally, the fallen state of man, and the consequent corruption of our nature,—or, directing our view to the British empire, we estimate the recent and unmeasured increase of wealth, luxury, and dissipation, in this country,—or whether we turn our eyes to Europe, and contemplate the seeds of anarchy, insubordination, and infidelity, so industriously and so successfully disseminated over the modern world,—we shall discover causes of civil disorder and dissolution, which must appall the most undaunted mind. We all are sensible that the present and immediate *palliative*—is that firm and

Present call  
for it.



provident administration of the means of government, for which we look with increasing confidence to yourself, and to his Majesty's other Ministers. But, impressed as your mind is upon this important subject, it is unnecessary for me to observe, that the true *medicine of the soul*,—the restorative to health and strength,—the only effectual and unfailing remedy *for the moral evils of society*,—is a general system \* of religious and virtuous education.

\* I cannot help suggesting to those ladies, whose talents and rank make them the objects of imitation to their own sex, how much essential good they might do to the poor of this country and to the country itself, by forming among themselves a “SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF THE FEMALE POOR IN ENGLAND.” In the introduction of the *straw platt*, or of any other article of employment, it would be of infinite service, that *genius*, *taste*, and *elegance*, should, from an elevated site, direct the caprice of fashion, in a course beneficial to the virtue and employment of the poor. In the *desired object* of a GENERAL SYSTEM OF EDUCATION, the part of the plan which relates to *female* children, will never be properly executed without a *superintending society of ladies*, to watch over that part of the establishment.—In nothing is the *superiority of the female sex* so manifest, as in the conduct and detail of measures, which are to affect and influence the domestic economy of the cottage.

Whatever prejudices may have existed on this subject in monkish ages, <sup>Its nature de-</sup> they are happily, and I trust <sup>fin-</sup>ed. for ever, removed.—No pious Christian, no loyal subject, now objects to that instruction, which fits and prepares the individual to *thrive, and to be useful, in his appropriate situation of life*;—which instructs him in the superior advantages of civil liberty, and of permanent government;—and, at the same time that it shews him his duty here, directs his views to another state of existence hereafter, and explains to him, from holy writ, the fallen state of man, and the appointed means of salvation through the atonement of a Redeemer.

The superior advantages of such instruction, have been felt and proved, wherever the experiment has <sup>Examples of its beneficial effects.</sup> been tried. Its effects in parts of Somersetshire, in schools established and supported by the Christian benevolence of two individuals, and by the *meek and*

*unassuming piety* of one\* who is now gone to receive her reward, have been already stated in these Reports. In Westmorland, † in Scotland, in America, and Switzerland, if we may correctly estimate by the example of the persons who have fixed in our metropolis, it has been attended with two invaluable benefits:—one, the abstinence from that practice, so destructive to the English and Irish poor,—the intemperate use of *spirituous liquors*;—the other, an extraordinary exemption from *criminal habits*,—a circumstance known, and observed on, by almost every court of justice, not only in the British Isles, but in Europe.

\* MRS. HOCKER:—See the account of her schools at Weston, in the Report No. 97. For the account of the schools established by Miss H. More and Miss P. More, the reader is referred to No. 64 of the Reports.

† Except the general and irresistible effects of *education*, I do not see any cause, to which we can ascribe the large proportion of successful and thriving individuals from the county of Westmorland. The whole population of that county is not equal to *two-thirds* of that of the single parish of Marybone.

England is fortunate in the liberal endowment of a numerous variety of charity schools, which do honour to the country. But it would be blindness not to perceive, that, tho they have had some effect in preserving the moral habits of *many* of the poor, yet, in some places, they are not entirely adequate to their object; and, in others, the poor receive very little, if any, advantage from them. Many instances might be referred to, in which a single scholar forms the whole *population* of a well endowed charity school. In some, the master and usher receive their respective salaries and advantages, without even the incumbrance of a single pupil: and in no part of England (with exception to a wise and benevolent plan now executing by the Bishop of Durham in his diocese) has any arrangement been formed, or effort made, to extend generally to *all the poor*\* the benefits of a religious and moral education.

\* Upon reference to the written laws of the different parts of the empire, we shall find the *Irish* statutes,



The annual display of charity children Not adequate in the metropolis, is splendid to their object. and impressive. But, if it were known, how small is our comparative provision for education,—especially since the resolution publicly announced by the trustees of some endowed schools, that “ they have *thought fit* to lessen the number of children taught in them, that the rest may be entirely supported; which is the reason the number now taught is *short of what it was formerly* ;” \*—the total amount of these scholars would be less a

from the 28th of Henry VIII. to the present period, supplying a series of acts in favour of education in *Ireland*. In *Scotland*, one of their latest statutes, before the Union, made a provision for *free-schools in every parish* in that kingdom; and one of our early acts, after the Union, supplied the sum of £20,000. for the establishment of schools in the *Highlands*.—In the *English Statute Book*, however, from the reign of Queen Elizabeth to the present day, no notice occurs of schools and schoolmasters, nor any reference to education in *England*, except by *restrictions on schoolmasters*; imposing *disabilities and incapacities*, instead of providing *support and encouragement*.

\* See the state of our charity schools annually published by “ the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge.”



matter of exultation, than the thousands of poor children, who at present receive no benefit whatever from our *public charity schools*, would be matter of deep regret to the philanthropic observer.

Some individuals have entertained an apprehension, that it is possible that the prevalence of other schools than those of our own persuasion,\* and the zeal and activity of the conductors of those schools, may produce, on the rising generation, effects unfavourable to our national and established church. If it should appear to temperate men, that such an apprehension is not entirely groundless, the consequences will be too important to be neglected: and the causes will appear to be too deeply founded

Reasons for  
extending  
them.

\* This case has come within my own observation,—where a parent, zealously attached to the doctrines and ritual of the established church, and having long waited for her child's admission into the parochial school, has at length accepted the offer of admission into a Methodist school; preferring the benefit of a Christian education there, to the continuance of an hopeless application to her own church.

in real and existing circumstances, to admit of any other prevention, except what I trust all our Christian brethren will rejoice in,—*the adoption, on our part, of the same extended and general system of EDUCATION,\* regulated according to the rites and doctrines of the church of England.* Whoever, indeed, is anxious for the duration and prosperity of our establishment, whether in church or in state, must be interested in the adoption of a prudent and practicable extension of

\* If I should be asked how it would be practicable to extend, at a small expense, the means of education to *all the children of the poor*, I should refer to the first extract in this volume, and cite the instance of **THE SCHOOLS IN WEST-STREET**. If the charity and other schools in England were opened to all the poor, on the same weekly allowance, as is regularly paid by the poor in that instance (presuming the master's duty to be properly performed) there would be very few of the poor, whose moral and religious improvement would be neglected. In cases where extreme poverty hath made the parent an object of parish relief, I can see no more objection to the magistrate being authorized to direct the weekly payment of three-pence each for children, between the ages of 9 and 12 years, towards their *education* and the improvement of their *morals, industry, and religious habits*, than to his having the power of granting a much larger sum towards their *mere animal subsistence*.

the means of education ;—so that its benefits may be offered to every individual ; as a preservative, not only for youth, but for the other ages of the poor, against the taint of sedition and the poison of infidelity.

No fairer claim to glory does this world afford the statesman, than that which may be founded on the Conclusion. improvement of the morals and situation of the poor.—HE, who amid the convulsions of Europe, and the crash of empires, —the MINISTER, who, by his superior and undaunted mind, hath preserved our civil and religious establishments from the ravages of *anarchy* and *infidelity*, will live for ever in the grateful hearts of his countrymen.—But not less happy—not less enviable—will be the lot of that MAN,—who, having seized the moment of restoring peace to Europe, shall have employed the period of tranquillity, in meliorating the character and condition of his fellow-subjects ;—of HIM, whose administration shall have been marked by a systematic arrange-

ment of measures,—for preserving the great mass of the people from vice and contagion,—for effectually promoting and encouraging their virtue and industry,—and for extending the benefits of education to every individual, impartially and universally like the glorious light of the sun, so as to make the rising generation a blessing to themselves, and to their country.

I have the honour to be, with sentiments of the highest respect and esteem,

My Dear Sir,

Your obedient

and faithful Servant,

THO<sup>s</sup>. BERNARD.

*Feb. 15, 1803.*

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
HENRY ADDINGTON,  
&c. &c. &c.

## No. C.

*Extract from an account of the Free-Chapel  
Schools in West-street, Seven Dials. By  
JOHN DOUGAN, Esq.*

ON the 3d of May 1802, there were opened in West-street, in the parish of St. Giles, day schools for 200 children of the poor in that neighbourhood. They have since been increased to the number of 240 children. The schools are of the established church, and connected with the free-chapel in West-street ; and are either kept in the house adjoining the chapel, and belonging to it ; or in the chapel itself, where the children attend at the times of divine service on Sundays, morning and evening, and Tuesday evenings ; and also on Thursday mornings, from nine o'clock to one, being the time fixed for their public examination.



For the education of each child, the parent pays, in advance, a shilling a month. —It is curious that, in these payments, until the severe weather came on, there had scarcely occurred an arrear of a shilling, from their first opening. Some failures in payment have since occurred, but not in many instances; and tho the payments amount to 13 shillings a year for each child, yet the rapidity with which those vacancies have been filled up, and the applications that are daily made for admission of children, give some reason to believe, that, if the school-house were adapted to receive 500 children, instead of 240, it would soon be filled.

As it will shew *one mode*, in which a *general and national system of education for the poor* might be adopted at a very trivial expense, I will state the outgoings of these three schools, and the funds by which they are supported. The only persons employed in them, are a master, and two mistresses; dividing between them the charge

of 240 children, collected in three separate schools ; each of which occupies one of the three upper floors of the house : floors which, it must be confessed, are not sufficiently commodious for so large a number of scholars. The salary of the master is £50. a year, and of the two mistresses £32. and £30. a year ; which includes their board, and every other incidental expense, except coals and candles for the schools, and the cleaning of the house. For these three articles the master is allowed £16. 10s. a year. The charge for house-rent, &c. is £50. a year. Of books, paper, &c. the annual expense is about £15. To this will remain to be added the sum of £90. for clothing 90 of the children, who are the nominees of annual subscribers of one guinea each, or of benefactors of ten guineas each.

Before I had stated the expenses of these schools, I should have observed, that there are also, on this establishment, Sunday schools for 100 additional children, who are

not paid for by their parents. The children of all the schools attend in the free-chapel on Sundays,\* and lead the psalmody of it with a degree of correctness and intelligence, that must surprise any one, who considers the short time which they have had to learn the tunes, and how unpromising scholars they must have been at first. Their progress is owing chiefly to the school-master; who possesses not only a particular talent for instruction in sacred music, but a singular pleasure in teaching it. The singing is also improved by a weekly practice after Tuesday evening lecture, when Mr. and Mrs. Gurney, and their children, and about fifty of the congregation, join with much benefit and pleasure.

\* This has increased the congregation at the free-chapel, not only on Sundays, but at the Tuesday evening lectures; many of their parents *attending out of curiosity at first* to see their children, and to hear them sing. Of these parents, the greater part are now become regular frequenters of the chapel, and devout and attentive hearers.

The total expenditure of the day schools and Sunday schools, being £283. 10s. is provided as follows:—1st, by £84. of annual subscriptions; 2dly, by £156. paid by the poor for their children's education, at 13 shillings a year for each child; and 3dly, by the produce of two morning and two evening charity sermons, producing together\* about £50. making together a total of £290. and leaving a trifling balance to answer contingent expenses. When the cost of clothing the 90 children is deducted, the current expense of these schools for 240 children, and of the Sunday schools for 100 children (in so unfavourable a situation as the centre of St. Giles's), will not exceed by more than £37. 10s. the payments which the parents do willingly make for their children's instruction.

\* The sermons are in May and November: the latter were on the 14th of the preceding month of November, when the collection, from an audience of 1000 persons, the greater part of them the poor of that neighbourhood, amounted to £28. 11s. 6d.



## OBSERVATIONS.

In my observations upon these schools, I will exclude all general topics, and not trespass further on the time of the reader than by a few brief remarks upon the peculiar features of *this recent experiment*, with respect to the education of the poor. It will not be easy to name a local situation where the remedy was so much wanted, and where circumstances were so adverse to the success of the experiment: and yet through the conduct and attention of the Rev. Mr. Gurney, and the intelligence and assiduity of the master, Mr. Neeves, and of his wife, and the other school-mistress, these schools have, within nine months from the first proposal of them, been established with a success which promises increase both in number and effect. It may be proper to inform the visitor of the school, that if he is desirous of viewing a splendid establishment of pupils, a striking arrangement of building and appendages, and a surplusage of well-appointed instruc-



tors and attendants, with handsome salaries and commodious apartments, he will find nothing of the kind in West-street. The size of the house, the extent of its funds, and above all, *the object of the experiment* (which is to produce a practical mode, in which the advantages of education may be universally extended to poor children at a very moderate expense) have made those funds, which in some parts of England would not have been adequate to the sustaining of a single master with one insulated pupil, the means of clothing 90 children, and of extending the blessing of education to 240, and of a Sunday school\* to the additional number of 100 more children.

The visitor should be prepared to enter school-rooms, apparently too small for the number of scholars; but yet without any

\* The Sunday schools are occasionally diminished in numbers by a circumstance, by which in effect they are promoted and encouraged; the vacancies in the day schools being preferably supplied from the most deserving children of the Sunday schools.

sensible inconvenience attending them, while they are regularly cleaned and ventilated.—He must expect to see a number of children, many (except on Sundays) in mended, and some in torn apparel; but if he will attend the progress of the school, tho he will not perceive any forced and immediate change in children who have been so long neglected, yet he will view with pleasure their advancement in cleanliness, decency, and order; and his observation of the progress which he sees making, will probably induce him to give credit for something having been already done.

The effect of the Thursday's examination, which continues from nine to one o'clock, in giving energy and activity to the children's minds, is very striking. In the last instance in which I attended it, there were 220 children, ranged in eleven rows in the pews, in front of the clerk's seat, which was occupied by Mr. Neeves,

the master; the two mistresses being attending in the side aisles. One row, consisting of rather more than 20 children, stood up at a time. The employment of that morning was the church catechism; divided into short queries, and attended with explanatory observations, and questions, on the master's part. When each child had been examined in its turn, another row stood up, the attention of the children having been previously relieved, by their all singing a verse or two of some psalm or hymn.

On another day, they were employed in reading the 6th chapter of St. John's Gospel, accompanied with similar questions and explanations, addressed to them in such a manner as to fix their attention, and to improve their understanding. A lady, who has several schools under her protection, was so much struck with the manner and *effect* of this examination, as to request Mr. Neeves to endeavour to prepare a written specimen of it, in order that the

experiment might be tried in her own schools.

It is to the very general establishment of parish schools in Scotland, and to the power thereby given to parents to obtain the essential part of education at a moderate expense, that the Scotch are indebted for a very valuable part of their national character. “ North Britain (says a Scotch  
 “ writer\*) struggles with many natural  
 “ disadvantages ;—the climate is cold, the  
 “ sky seldom serene, the weather variable,  
 “ the mountains bleak, barren, rocky,  
 “ often covered with snows, and the gene-  
 “ ral appearance of the country very for-  
 “ bidding to strangers ; yet *by an early*  
 “ *attention to the education of youth, to form*  
 “ *good men and good citizens*, she has  
 “ uniformly maintained a high character  
 “ among the nations ; has been always  
 “ deemed an excellent nurse of the human

\* Mr. Frazer’s Memorial in behalf of the parochial school-masters of Scotland. See *Hints on Education*, lately published by Cadeil and Davies.

“ species; and has furnished not soldiers  
 “ only, but divines, generals, statesmen,  
 “ and philosophers, to almost every nation  
 “ in Europe.”

*Feb. 4, 1803.*



## No. CI.

*Extract from an account of a Charity for  
Lying-in Women at Ware. By Mr.  
WILLIAM ALLEN.*

IN September 1795, there was formed at Ware, in the county of Hertford, a Lying-in Society, for the relief of poor married women in Ware and its vicinity. The general plan was taken from that of Tottenham High Cross: but in its regulations it differs in some respects from that and other similar charities noticed in the preceding Reports.—It is supported by subscriptions; each subscriber of 26 shillings a year being intitled to three annual presentations; and so in proportion. Upon admission, every subscriber pays three shillings and six pence, towards a fund for the purchase of lying-in linen. This fund is increased by occasional donations from non-subscribers,

and the surplus enables the conductors to keep the old linen in repair, and to purchase new linen when necessary.

The subscribers have the option of using any of their three presentations, either in favour of a lying-in woman, or of a distressed sick woman. If for a poor woman on her lying-in, she is allowed, besides the use of a set of linen for her month, seven shillings towards defraying the expense of a midwife, nurse, &c. ; and, to be laid out in flannel for the child, one shilling ; or, in case of twins, two. The subscribers must give to every woman they recommend, one ticket for the money, and another for the linen ; which can in no case be delivered without a ticket, and which must be returned clean, and right in number. There is also a regulation that no infectious person be allowed the use of the linen ; and that women, offending wilfully against the regulations, should be excluded in future from the benefits of the charity.

The gradual progress and success of this institution has been very gratifying to the founders of it. They began with three bags, or sets of linen, for the mother and child ; but by the surplus of subscriptions, however small, and by some donations, they have been enabled to purchase twenty sets of linen, and to keep them in good repair. In the first year, 50 pregnant women received the benefit of the charity ;—in the second, 51 ;—in the third, 75 ;—in the fourth, 79 ;—in the fifth, 97 ;—in the sixth, 98 ;—and in the seventh, the preceding year, 112 mothers and their children were objects of its relief. It continues to increase, and to extend its advantages to the adjacent villages for some miles round. Its benefits are received with gratitude, and the linen, in almost every instance, has been returned clean and in good condition.

### OBSERVATIONS.

We have already had occasion to observe, how much better it is, that a poor woman

should be attended, during her lying-in, *in her own habitation*; and should there have a little pecuniary and other assistance, in preference to her being carried into a lying-in hospital. This preference does not originate merely in the difference of expense; tho that is a very considerable object, and always ought to be a subject of attention, in the administration of every charity. Waste in charities exhausts and annihilates those funds, for a share in which the necessities and the sufferings of man will ever produce claims and demands, beyond the power of satisfaction. But in this and in all instances of charity it does a still greater prejudice: it injures the domestic and prudential habits of the objects of the charity; and returns them to their families, with an indisposition to practise *those minute details of economy*, which are essential to the well-being of the poor. Besides this, their children are to be attended to; and tho in a few days after the birth they would be capable, if at home, of managing and directing in their own

families, yet, if delivered in a lying-in hospital, they do not return under a month; and in the mean time their places must be supplied by some female attendant; often with very pernicious family consequences.

The most material object of hospitals for the reception of lying-in women—the affording of superior medical aid in cases of difficulty—has been well provided for, at the Manchester Infirmary. Upon notice from a regular midwife of a difficult case of delivery, the surgeon of the district, or in his absence the one next in rotation, immediately attends *gratis*, and assists the woman at home. This, it has been observed, occasions no additional expense to the infirmary, except that of medicines where wanted. The cases, in which surgeons have been so called in, were very few; but most, if not all, of them would have been attended with great danger, without such medical assistance,

If we compare the relative bearings of



expense and effect, we shall find that the expense of *one woman* delivered in a lying-in hospital (independently of the cost of supplying her place at home during the month) will be *five guineas*: whereas for the same sum, applied according to the regulations of the charity at Ware, *twelve women* will receive more unexceptionable, and perhaps more useful, relief, during this period of suffering and danger.

*Feb. 15, 1803.*

## No. CII.

*Extract from an account of the Cotton Mills  
at Rothsay in the Isle of Bute. By Mr.  
CARR, of Leeds.*

IN the management of the cotton mills at Rothsay, two objects have been attended to,—health, and morals. With regard to the first, every known precaution for keeping the rooms clean and well aired,—such as frequently washing the floors, white-washing, and a free circulation of air by windows and ventilators,—has been adopted. In warming the rooms, they do not use stoves intensely heated, but instead of them, they have stoves with extended surfaces for supplying heat. In the operation of carding, by enclosing the machines, they in some degree prevent the flying of the card-dust. At the same time they hold out inducements to personal cleanliness, and

attempt to give them effect, by the premiums for attention and good behaviour, being composed of articles contributing to neatness and cleanliness;—such as soap, combs, razors, &c. The hours of working are from 6 in the morning until 7 in the evening. About 40 minutes are allowed for breakfast, and as much for dinner. The people go home to both of those meals; and, as none of them have far to go, the practice seems to be in favour of their health.

Considering religion as the only solid ground of morality, every attention is paid to instructing the children in the principles of Christianity. For this purpose, and to teach them reading and other branches of necessary education, a teacher is employed. He used formerly to teach the children in the evenings, after the mills were stopped; but they have lately adopted the plan of teaching them during the day. This is by *one* or *two* at a time getting their lessons in an adjacent room by rotation; which is

done without any hindrance to the work, and with many obvious advantages, as well to the general progress of the business, as to the children themselves. They also meet together at school, on Sunday evenings, for religious instruction. Besides the instructions which the children receive from the teacher, the masters of the different departments have directions to check every immoral practice, in those who are under their charge.

Generally speaking, the morals and conduct of the people employed in the Rothsay cotton mills, are as correct as those of the other inhabitants of the Island of Bute. Much, however, among free labourers, must depend upon the people themselves. In this respect, there are great difficulties: too many of the parents do not see the advantages, which arise from cleanliness (particularly in their houses), from proper methods of preparing their food, and from having their children well educated. It is hoped, however, that in these respects they

are gradually improving. There is a friendly society belonging to the works, which promises considerable benefit.

### OBSERVATIONS.

Such is the account with which I have been favoured by Messrs. Bannatine and Buchanan of Glasgow. It might be an object worthy the attention of the humane, to enquire whether some mode of spinning *the higher numbers of the mule-yarn* could not be devised, in a lower temperature, and in a freer circulation of air, than is commonly practised: and whether it might not be practicable for weavers also to work to advantage in more airy shops. Were all the cotton mills in the kingdom to adhere to a reasonable length of working hours, and to have the children properly educated, such measures, we should think, would conduce much to the health and morals of the people, without being injurious to the manufacturer, or prejudicial to his fair profits: the benefits of the limitation



of work to limited hours *during the day*,—  
of a proper respite during meal times—and  
of attention to cleanliness and morals,—  
being more than compensated by the superior health, energy, and conduct, of the persons employed.

“ There does unquestionably exist” (to use Mr. Bannatine’s words) “ a *very onerous*  
“ *duty* upon the proprietors of great works,  
“ that *the proportion of population*, necessarily thrown under their charge at a  
“ very early period of life, SHALL NOT BE  
“ DISQUALIFIED FOR THE SUBSEQUENT AND  
“ MORE IMPORTANT PART, THEY WILL  
“ HAVE TO PERFORM IN SOCIETY.”—The plan of giving lessons during the working hours of the day instead of confining the children in the evening, is borrowed from Mr. Birkbeck, of Settle, in Yorkshire. It is indeed, an important improvement. The children taken thus, singly, for eight or ten minutes in rotation, are much better taught; and their instruction comes to them under the appearance of relaxation

from labour ; and is therefore more willingly received. Mr. Bannatine, the owner of the mill, is confident that the quantity of work is not, upon the whole, diminished\* by this mode of teaching ; and he thinks that the trifling expense it occasions, is abundantly made up to him *by its influence on the morals and conduct of his people*.—For the idea of inclosing the common cards in a frame, so

\* When the reader has been informed by those who are applying for the repeal of the late Act for the Regulation of Cotton Mills, that *unless owners of cotton mills can work their apprentices NIGHT AND DAY*, it will amount to a surrender of all their profits,—that is, that they will not be able to make their fortunes *with sufficient rapidity*,—he will be surprized that MR. BANNATINE should (in these Observations, which all come from him) have expressed himself so perfectly satisfied with a moderate and limited degree of labour, regulated almost to precision according to the late act. These examples, however, are not confined to Scotland.—We have the pleasure of informing the reader that, in several parts of England, there are cotton mills, *which have been for some time worked in conformity to the principles of the act of Parliament* ; and that by a Report, which we have just received, it appears that “ the foremen who super-  
“ intend these mills, and have *an interest* in the quantity  
“ of work done, (tho they submitted to the restrictions  
“ at first with reluctance,) do now declare with great  
“ satisfaction, that *the abridgement of labour is fully com-  
“ pensated by the continued good health of the children*.”

as to prevent the flying of the card-dust, which is deemed injurious to the lungs, the public is indebted to Mr. Buchanan, one of the gentlemen who has supplied me with information about the Rothsay mills.

A small annual contribution is made by the workmen towards forming a common library; which has had a beneficial effect on the manners of all the persons employed, by supplying amusement for their leisure hours. Some of the inhabitants of Rothsay have joined them, and they have now a well-selected library of above 600 volumes. The Marquis of Bute approves of it, and has been a contributor to the collection.

*Sept. 7, 1802.*

## No. CIII.

*Extract from an account of a supply of Blankets for the Poor at Hinxton. By the Rev. JAMES PLUMPTRE.*

IN November 1802, I bought six pair of blankets, at different prices, the whole cost of which was £ 4. 15s. 6d. These I had marked with the initials of my own *name* and *place of abode*, and the *number* of the blanket; and then offered them to cottagers in my parish at two thirds of the prime cost, to be paid by 6d. a week, till cleared; or upon loan, at 3d. per month each, paid the first Monday in every month; the blankets being to be returned, clean and well used, on the first Monday in May. In selecting the persons to whom the offer was made, I gave the preference to those who had large families; and, where there was also superior merit, industry, and good conduct, I allowed

them to have two blankets. All of them, without exception, preferred purchasing the blankets. Monday morning, between eight and ten o'clock, was the hour fixed upon for payment; when I used to have my book by my side, and as the sixpences were brought in, I noted them down; each persons' name being put at the top of the page, with the number, price, and reduced price, of the blankets; the days, on which the payment were made, being entered below. One or two would have paid me for them at once, and another would have paid *2s. 6d.* down; but I thought it better, on several accounts, to have all on the same footing. Except in two instances only (and those by mistake, and corrected the following Monday,) the money has been brought me with the utmost punctuality, and all of them have expressed, how much they were obliged to me, how comfortable they found the blankets, and how little they had felt the expense.

It appearing at the meeting of our Friendly



Society, at Christmas 1802, that there was £ 10. of the fund, to be put out at interest, and that there occurred no immediate mode of investment for it, I offered to take it for a quarter, or half a year at farthest, and to allow five per cent. interest, in the hope that by Midsummer, another £ 10. might be added to the stock, and some useful application might be made of both the sums.

I reflected on the success of my former lot of blankets, and was desirous, while I had the money, to apply it to some useful object and to benefit the Friendly Society by it, if possible ; at the same time I wished to pay each member some trifling mark of my respect, considering them, as the most industrious and respectable of my parishioners ; I therefore offered to purchase ten pair of blankets, calculating that there might be twenty free members, who would each be glad of one, or would wish to nominate a brother member, to have it instead of himself, and thus do him a kindness. The blankets I proposed to be sold at 1s. each

under the prime cost, and to be paid for by installments of sixpence a week. Even this small deduction was esteemed an act of kindness; but the loan of the money was valued still more; and the whole has been reimbursed to me, without any failure whatever.

Thus, for the trifling expense of about three guineas and with very little trouble, I have had the satisfaction of assisting in supplying the wants of almost all the poor in my parish, who were devoid of this comfort, and have extended the boon to near thirty families. In winter, when I have enjoyed the comforts of my own bed, and seen the bright white frost through my window, or heard the wind and the snow driving without, the reflection, that I had been able so easily to relieve the wants of many of my flock, and to supply them with a very essential comfort of life, has given me inexpressible satisfaction.

## OBSERVATIONS.

From the above it will appear, that it is not so much the amount of the *money*, as the *mode of application*, that enables a man to do good. The same sum expended in *firing*, (a very useful mode of relief) had warmed my parishioners only for a few short hours in the day, and have been soon consumed ; the same money *given* in blankets had supplied only *a few* ; but, thus applied, *many* have enjoyed the comfort during the nights of *the preceding winter* ; and they are not only in use for the present winter, but will last for some winters to come.

This kind of charity serves likewise to call forth and encourage the industry of the poor, in co-operation with the efforts of their benefactors. It teaches punctuality of payment, which among the poor is a very great and requisite virtue. It tends also to create good will and kindness between them and

their benefactors: every time of payment renewing in the cottager the memory of this act of benevolence, and in the donor the gratification arising from it; so that it may be truly said, "it is twice blessed; it blesseth him that gives, and him that takes."

*Dec. 7, 1803.*

## No. CIV.

*Extract from an account\* of a Society in West Street, for the relief of their Poor Neighbours in Distress. By THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.*

ON Sunday the 24th of April, 1800, the Rev. MR. GURNEY, the Minister of the FREE CHAPEL in West Street, in his discourse to the congregation, recommended the establishment of a SOCIETY, the object of which should be to seek out, and as far as might be to relieve, the distresses and afflictions of any poor persons of that neighbourhood, who were suffering in silence and obscurity. The relief was to be confined to persons who were recommended by one of the members of the Society ; with ex-

\* This account was ordered to be published separately for distribution.



clusion, not only of the common mendicant, —but also of begging letters, and personal applications. The objects of relief were to be sought for, their habitations visited, and their circumstances and characters\* ascertained, by visitors appointed by and from among the committee.

Those of the congregation who were disposed to contribute to this work of benevolence and charity, were requested to meet in the chapel on the Wednesday evening following, being the 27th of April; in order that they might enter their names, and pay their subscriptions in advance, either by the week, or month, or quarterly, or yearly.

At the time proposed, the evening of the 27th of April, a considerable number of the poor, together with some other persons of the neighbourhood attended, with a degree of eagerness, by no means convenient

\* This enquiry will be of less difficulty or uncertainty, as the Society consists chiefly of tradesmen, or of poor persons, resident in that neighbourhood.

to themselves, or to any other persons present. There were nearly one hundred of them who immediately entered their names, and paid their subscriptions in advance, to the amount of £ 12. 1s. 6d.;—twenty-seven of them subscribed and paid their weekly penny; thirty their two-pence each;—and thirty-six three-pence or more each. There were also eight annual, twenty one quarterly, and thirty-one monthly contributors, making in the whole one hundred and fifty-three subscribers.\* Thus was a subscription collected, in the very commencement, and, as it were, in the first hour of *this labour of love*, amounting, on an annual statement, to above £ 100. a year. Several persons went away on account of the lateness of the time, and the difficulty of getting into the vestry; not having been able to wait long

\* This charity has (Dec. 8th, 1803) now subsisted six months; and in that time the amount of monies received has been £ 80. 14s. 3d.; thus disposed of;

Paid in relief of different families and				
single persons	-	-	-	£. 51 8s. 0d.
Cash in the Treasurer's hands	-	4	6	3
Ditto at Messrs. Bosanquett's	-	25	0	0

enough to have their names entered, and their money received. Many of these attended on the ensuing Wednesday (May 4), and then subscribed ; and the Society had on its books, on the eighth day from its opening, one hundred and eighty-seven\* members ; with subscriptions to the annual amount of £128.

A committee is proposed to be immediately formed, for the direction and management of the funds ; and to prepare regulations, which are to be printed and circulated among the subscribers, and others of the congregation. Visitors are to be appointed, to report the state of the objects recommended for relief,† so as to bring the Charity into immediate action. Without, however, waiting for a stipulated arrange-

\* Another Wednesday has just passed, and there are now about two hundred members. *May 14, 1803.*

† Of the members of the Society, some from sickness have become objects of relief, during which time their subscriptions have been discontinued. Upon their getting better, their subscriptions have been recommenced.

*14th December, 1803.*

ment, the poor and necessitous attendants on the free chapel have come forward with their respective mites ; in confidence that the plan and regulations will be such, as ought to be approved. At the same time, it is but justice to observe, that they have not been influenced by the hope, or idea, of their acquiring any peculiar right to a benefit out of these funds.—If they are poor and in distress, they will have the same claim to relief as their poor and distressed neighbours ; but they will be entitled to no preference, except that which arises from superior character, or from more urgent distress.

### OBSERVATIONS.

The difficulty attending the conduct of personal charity in the Metropolis, doth in some instances obstruct its current, and in other cases occasion a total indifference as to its course and direction. We all feel the impossibility of correctly ascertaining

the circumstances and characters of those, who solicit us for relief, with every *appearance*, at least, of aggravated distress and misery. At the same time we are not unaware, that the indiscriminate application of personal charity tends, in some instances, to encourage vice, drunkenness, and dissipation, and, in most cases, to promote idleness and thriftless habits. Of personal and pecuniary bounty in London, the inconvenience is indeed visible, and generally known. By its abundant and undirected current, numbers (who might otherwise have been useful members of the community) have been *seduced and inveigled* to prefer idleness and disgraceful *mendicity* to industry and honest independence: and of those who are, in a certain degree, *real objects of charity*, few have been able to resist the inducement and example, of attempting to increase their proportion of relief, by fraud and imposition.

In the conduct of charity, the difficulty is not so much to do good, as to prevent its



producing noxious and inconvenient effects. Such is the condition of humanity, that even our virtues are liable to be converted into vices, unless directed with great care and attention. Amid the charitable institutions which do honour to this country, there is not one that may not, by perversion or neglect, become the nurse of some pernicious vice,—of indolence, of deceit, or of wasteful and dissolute habits. Even EDUCATION itself (to put the strongest case) may, if misdirected, produce turbulent sedition, and presumptuous infidelity.

These considerations, however, will not deter the benevolent from the exercise of personal charity, where it is so much wanted. They will be aware, that, if its motives and consequences are always to be *correctly appreciated*, its energy and activity will be lost in doubt and anxiety.

To them, therefore, is addressed this account of an establishment in the centre of St. Giles's; the object of which is to

ascertain, whether it may not be practicable to induce the poor of the metropolis, to be contributors and conductors of a Society, for affording personal and pecuniary relief to their distressed neighbours. *If it is practicable,\** the benefits which may be expected from the general prevalence of such Societies, so framed for the *relief* and *reform* of the lower ranks of life, will probably exceed any calculation, which I can venture to offer on the subject.—The poor are always well acquainted with the relative industry, character, and necessity, of the other poor of their immediate neighbourhood. They are not liable to be deceived in any trust they may undertake of this kind; and those, who have noticed their conduct with regard to objects of distress, have had frequent occasion to observe (what probably has originated in the sufferings they have themselves undergone) that they are less liable to be directed by *caprice* or

\* Nothing has occurred since the publishing this account, to raise any doubts of the practicability of the measure, or of its beneficial effects. Dec. 16, 1803.

*injustice*, with respect to charity, than the rich.

The situation, in which this experiment has been tried, is certainly not very favourable to the attempt. It however, promises success, even in that neighbourhood. In most of the other parishes of the metropolis there would be very little difficulty in the establishment of similar Societies, and very little doubt of their prevalence and success ; especially if the other parishioners, by the annual donation of a guinea or of some lesser sum, will increase and support their funds. I have stated that the poor man, who contributes to the funds of this Society, acquires no peculiar right to relief, in case of distress ; if, however, he is well disposed and charitably inclined, he will have many motives to enroll himself, as a member of such a Society. He will not only contribute to the formation of an edifice, in which *he* may himself be sheltered in the storm of adversity ; but he will find that his weekly penny will enable him to do ten times more, for

the relief of his necessitous *relations* and friends, than, under the pressure of poverty he could possibly do.

The scenes of distress in some of the recesses of St. Giles's, and the sufferings of want and indigence perishing in retirement and concealment, are much more frequent, and much more aggravated, than many of their opulent neighbours can conceive ; and they are very different from what can be imagined by those, whose *commerce of benevolence* is confined to the *street beggar*, and to the well-dressed *epistolary* mendicant.—The objects, to whom the poor of the free Chapel propose to devote their charity, are of a very different class : and the end, to which they direct their views, is not merely the bodily sustenance, but the religious and moral improvement, of the objects. When the visitor attends to enquire into the circumstances of the distress, and when he returns to administer comfort, that time of affording temporal relief is the favourable moment to remind them of the concerns of

eternity, and to direct their eyes and their hearts to the supreme and only satisfactory source of relief and consolation.

The effects of the free Chapel in West Street, upon the religious and moral habits of the poor in that vicinage, are already very apparent. The day schools\* for two hundred and forty children, and the Sunday school for one hundred children, have been already noticed in our reports. The decency, the regularity, and the number, of the congregation have been gradually increasing with a degree of success, which will, I trust, induce other individuals to unite their efforts to form similar establishments, for the religious consolation and reform of the poor.

\* Some apprehension had been entertained that the establishment of this Society would interfere with the collection from the poor at the four charity sermons for the schools. The contrary has been the case ; the quantity of copper, received at the two charity sermons to-day, being considerably more than in any other instance.

13th Nov. 1803.



There were one hundred and fifty persons, from the *free Chapel*,\* who attended in St. James's Church, and received Confirmation from the Bishop of London, on the 31st of March last. Many of them might perhaps, but for the free Chapel, never have thought of that Christian ordinance, nor of the Holy Communion, which they do now regularly attend. On the Sunday preceding Easter Sunday, there were one hundred and eighty Communicants at the Chapel.—On last Good Friday, there were one hundred and twenty-three; and there were, on Easter Sunday, one hundred and eighty-two poor

\* The free Chapel in West Street does not differ from the free Church at Bath, except in the greater necessity which called for it, and in the greater difficulty that attended its establishment. The Schools of the free Chapel have been very fortunate in the patronage of the BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE, and of the RECTOR OF THE PARISH (the Bishop of Chichester), who are two of the VICE PRESIDENTS and Governors of the Schools. The first of them, the Bishop of London, opened the free Chapel in May 1800, with a most interesting and impressive discourse. The Bishop of Chichester has repeatedly given his assistance, by preaching in the Chapel when his other duties allow him.

persons, who received the communion in that Chapel. The Sacramental Collection on Easter Sunday, *among persons almost all of them in a poor and necessitous situation*, amounted to so large a sum as £ 3. 9s. 6d : and, among the same individuals, the commencement of the funds of this Society has exceeded the collections of some opulent parishes.—It is most gratifying to observe, that *their religious duties* have produced the proper and genuine fruit of GOOD WORKS, and that the poor of this congregation have been so taught the doctrines and duties of Christianity,—as to add to GODLINESS BROTHERLY KINDNESS,—and to BROTHERLY KINDNESS CHARITY.

11th May, 1803.

## No. CV.

*Extract of an account of a supply of food  
and employment for Cottager's Families at  
Mongewell. By the Rev. DAVID DURELL.*

**D**URING the three preceding summers, the following measures have been adopted at Mongewell, for the encouragement of the cottager's exertions in the cultivation of the ground, and for the supply of occupation, and the necessaries of life, to their families.

The farmers have agreed to allow the cottager to deposit with them, previous to the first of November, such sums as may suit them, not exceeding a guinea and a half each family: upon this condition that, during the winter, they shall receive the amount, in any articles they may choose which the farm will supply, either for the consumption of

their families, or for the keep of their pigs and stock; such articles to be sold to them, at the rate of two shillings per bushel below the market price.

Besides this, worsted and flax have been purchased by the lord of the manor, for the employment of the children at school, and for the women, when the weather will not permit them to work in the field. Hitherto the demand for stockings, for the schools and other charitable uses, has been equal to the quantity produced: and the cloth made from the flax has been sold to the cottager, at about two-pence a yard cheaper, than it can be purchased in the shop. This homespun is the most durable cloth, and answers the different purposes of the cottager. The young beginners spin the coarsest sort of flax, which makes aprons to be worn in the field, and while they are doing the work of their houses; the finer sorts, which rise in price as far as fifteen pence a pound, make very good shirts, shifts, and sheets.

In addition to the above, a stock of bees has been given by the Honorable Mrs. Barrington to each cottager, on condition that neither the stock nor the swarms should be taken the year following, and that attention should be paid to increase them. The number is already become very considerable, and profitable to them; altho the seasons have not been so favourable to bees, since the stock was given, as they sometimes are. The annual estimate of gain from it may be taken at twenty-five pounds of honey, and a pound and a half of wax, after the first year.

### OBSERVATIONS.

Parishes adopting this method of employing and assisting their poor, will find a diminution in their rates, in proportion to the encouragement it gives to industry and prudence. In general, the overseers are not able to find employment for the female part of their parishioners, during the winter



months; and they, therefore, allow them a maintenance, and frequently furnish them with linen without receiving any return.

At first sight, it may appear that the abatement in the prices of the corn is a considerable diminution from the farmer's profit; but it does not prove so in fact. Every farmer knows that the attention or inattention of his labourers is of much more consequence, than the difference between high and low wages; and that the utmost care cannot guard against the opportunities, which they have of doing their work in a slovenly manner. A new principle operates in the man, thus made interested in his labour; from the time of sowing the seed, during the weeding of it, during its growth, the harvesting, threshing, and cleaning the corn, he feels himself interested in the crop; and his attention is carried to the benefit he will eventually receive from the produce. He also has a motive to husband his wages during the summer months. He knows this indulgence of the farmer is a

premium for good conduct, which he might not have in another service, or which might not be continued another year, if he did not deserve it. When he can refer to experience, as in this case, he is made sensible of its comforts by comparing the present case of his family, his sufficiency of bacon fattened by himself, and his means of procuring beer during his labour, with the want of these advantages, and with that reduction in the prospective comforts of the labourer, which makes him look to bread and water, as almost the only supports of life.

However convenient the produce of the bees may be to the cottager, towards his rent, the great value of them, and of every similar possession, is from the interest he takes in them throughout the year. It turns his mind to observation, and affords him amusement while he is working in his garden ; and there is this additional advantage belonging to it, that it is a great incitement to him to keep his garden in good order ; as the bees thrive most if it is

so; and pinks, thyme, and marjoram, with a few other sweet smelling herbs, are the usual accompaniments to bee-hives.

These plans secure the attention of the labourer, every hour of the day. Whether he is in the barn, in the field, in his cottage, or in his garden, he values the comforts arising from them; and his satisfaction is proportioned to the industry, which he has used to attain them. They fill up those hours, in a pleasant and profitable manner, which are frequently spent in idle diversions at best, and too often in habits very injurious to the cottager and his family.

*19th Dec. 1803.*

## No. CVI.

*Extract of an account of the introduction of  
Straw Platt at Avebury. By THOMAS  
BERNARD, Esq.*

IN the severe winters of 1800, and 1801, the parish of Avebury, in the county of Wilts, was in a state of considerable distress. A large body of women and children, deprived of their spinning work by the manufactories in the neighbourhood, were reduced to subsist merely on the parish pay. The allowance to those who had no work (which included almost the whole of the women and children) was from one shilling and sixpence to three shillings a week, varied according to the price of the half gallon loaf; which was thought, upon the average, sufficient for a full grown person. For this they were in general employed in picking stones, repairing roads, and work of the like kind.

In September 1801, MR. DOUGAN, a gentleman who, fortunately for the neighbourhood, was then resident at Avebury, proposed to the inhabitants, to have the poor taught the *platting of split straw*, and offered to send for a person to instruct them in it. The parish immediately adopted the proposal, and agreed to subscribe ten pounds to the undertaking.

A person was engaged to come from London, and instruct them in the work. Two rooms were hired as school rooms; and all the females of the parish were invited to come, and be instructed. One qualification alone, that of cleanliness, was required for admission. Regular attendance, industry, and improvement, were encouraged: all impropriety of behaviour was reprobated; and the incorrigible were banished to their own homes. To introduce personal cleanliness, at that time, among the poor at Avebury, was a task of no little difficulty; the pressure of the scarcity having induced many of them, to dispose of



the little means of personal accommodation and cleanliness, which they possessed.— Their bedding and linen were worn out, and nothing remained in some of the families, but a few patched rags. In vain was it, that one or two of a family cleansed themselves and their clothing, and attended the school rooms, apparently decent. They returned at night to their own homes, to their parents and relations, who from extreme poverty could not appear at all, and the next day came to the school rooms with vermin on their clothes. It was truly painful to see these weeping children sent back to their parents on this account. A second application was therefore made to the parish, to furnish some fresh bedding and a little clothing. This was granted; and Mr. Hickley, one of the parish officers, took a very active part in cleansing the cottages, by whitewashing them with quick lime in every part. Such parts of the old bedding as could properly be used, were boiled and then dried in an oven; the rest was burnt, and additional bedding was supplied. To

promote the desired object of cleanliness, a further measure was adopted; by appropriating the inner apartment for those who were perfectly clean, and the outer room for those who wished to be neat and decent, and were gradually becoming so. Cleanliness, tho in rags, was sure of promotion, by a removal from the outer to the inner apartment; and this mark of distinction was eagerly sought for by all who attended.

There remained some prejudices and difficulties to be combated, but they were soon overcome; and in a few months, the only doubt was, whether a proper sale could be secured for all the materials worked up. Till this could be ascertained, Mr. Dougan purchased the work, as it was finished, and disposed of it for them in London. A considerable dealer, in the split straw manufacture, was applied to at Bath. He came to Avebury, and found their progress so rapid, the work so well done, and the list of persons engaged in it so numerous, that it became an object for him to supply himself so near

home with their straw platt. He agreed to come once a month, and take the whole of the straw, paying for it with ready money on the spot according to the price of the commodity at the public market. With the whole of this arrangement all parties have had reason to be perfectly satisfied.

In August 1802, the platters were so far advanced in the manufacture, as to be able to work at their own homes, doing the whole of the process of the business. Nearly one hundred women and children (almost all of them having been living on parish allowance) were at that time enabled to earn from 3s. to 10s. per week; with a prospect that, as they become more used to the work, their profit would of course increase. The nature of the increase may be ascertained by the sale of the article. The first six months, the straw platt, sold in London, produced about £.100; whereas in three months, from May to July 1802, the money paid by the Bath manufacturer,

for the straw platt made at Avebury, exceeded £.300.\* The difference of such a sum of money, among the poor of Avebury, has operated as a most powerful charm to the evils of extreme poverty. The vermin, with which the cottagers swarmed, is rarely heard of: their personal looks evince that they have undergone as great a change for the better, as their dress and outward appearance indicate; and the habit of associating together in decent and industrious occupation, with proper persons to superintend them, has evidently improved their manners and behaviour. At the same time there is not to be apprehended, from their meeting together, that danger to their morals, which is so fatal in most manufactories. The Society is now dissolved, the purport of their attendance being answered; and every individual, at present, works at home.—Children of eight years of age, who were hitherto a burthen to the parish and their

\* The average produce or profit of the straw platt at Avebury, when the last account was sent up, was £ 80. a month; being nearly £1,000. a year.



parents, are now able to contribute largely, and in many instances almost entirely, to their own support.

This undertaking has fortunately received the aid of many zealous and useful assistants, and has been prosecuted with persevering activity, with zeal, and personal encouragement. The Rev. Mr. Lucas, has been indefatigable in his attention ; and Mr. Hickley, the church-warden, remarkably active, and with great effect. The neighbouring farmers, Messrs. Jeffries, Brown, Tanner, Nalder, and others, readily gave their best straw gratis, and supplied almost every other encouragement.

Mr. Dougan has succeeded in persuading himself, what I shall not attempt to prevail on the reader to believe, that to the encouragement and attention of these gentlemen, and not to his own individual exertions, or to his pecuniary contributions, is to be attributed the extraordinary degree of success, which has attended these measures.



What the success has been, may be appreciated by the reader, if he will take into consideration this fact,—that in less than a twelvemonth, THE WHOLE OF THE PARISH POOR OF THIS POPULOUS VILLAGE (*cripples, aged poor, and infants excepted*) HAVE BEEN ENABLED TO EARN THEIR LIVELYHOOD BY THEIR OWN EXERTIONS, WITHOUT RECEIVING ANY RELIEF FROM THE PARISH.

When the Avebury platters had acquired a degree of skill in their new art, it was suggested to them, that it would be prudent to keep the benefit of the manufacture to themselves, and not to communicate any information on the subject to the adjoining parishes. They have however done the reverse of this, and have contributed very liberally to the extension of this mode of employment to *Kennett, Beckhampton, Monckton, Salisbury, Marlborough, and Devizes*.\* To the latter place a young

\* Dr. Briggs informs me that in consequence of the Society's little pamphlet, called *Hints respecting the manufacture of Split Straw*, being sent him, he has

woman was sent as a teacher, from Avebury, at the request of some gentlemen at Devizes. In six weeks she returned, having for a trifling gratuity (the whole expense not exceeding two guineas) instructed thirty persons in the whole art of the straw platt.

### OBSERVATIONS.

Of the modes of encouraging the energy and efforts of the poor, none are more immediate and effectual, or more pleasing in their operation, than the aid and instruction of them, in the acquisition of healthy and profitable employment. Of beneficial effects so produced, a more interesting example will not be speedily found, than what Mr. Dougan has done for the introduction of the manufactory of split straw

introduced it into the schools at Kendal; and that several of the girls now earn half a crown a week, and yet devote part of the day to sewing work. He very justly observes that it is sufficiently lucrative, while it will maintain the children at school; which he thinks it will, without interfering with their other hours of education.

at Avebury, and in its neighbourhood. Instead of what he has there effected, if his benevolence had distributed, with the most awakened and successful attention, a large and munificent donation, among the poor of his parish, it would have produced no effects for their benefit, comparable to the boon which he has now bestowed on them. He has settled upon them and their children, the valuable inheritance of the *motives* and *means* of productive industry ; and with it he has entailed on the *heritors* of the gift, all the concomitant virtues of active and successful attention and exertion.

The introduction of mills and machinery into this country, for the spinning of woollen, has, in most parts of England, deprived the cottager's family of the greatest and most profitable part of their domestic employment ; and has entailed an enormous and insupportable burthen of parish rates. In some parishes, upon the cessation of the demand for spinning wool, the rates have

suddenly risen to 20s. and 30s. in the pound. In one instance, where I have had particular opportunity of acquiring information, the rise was to 35s. on the pound rate; and when the Rector\* applied to the manufacturer for a continuance of employment, offering to do it at the same rate as the wool was spun at the mills, or even at less, he was answered that the work was supplied with more ease and certainty from the mills, and therefore they could not employ the poor on any terms.

Under these circumstances, and at this period, it hath proved a providential relief to the family of the English cottager, that the manufacturing of *split straw*, hath been discovered and introduced into this country. For some time back several hundred thousand pounds have been annually remitted to Leghorn, to pay for an article of dress, which we now find can be supplied by the poor of our own country; and that,

\* The Rev. Mr. Townsend, of Pewsey, Wilts.

—not by withdrawing the useful hand from other necessary occupations, but by giving healthy employment and means of subsistence to children,—to the aged,—the infirm,—and the cripple;—nor yet by exposing them to the taint of mixed and congregated Society, as in great manufactories,—for this work, after it is acquired by a few weeks instruction, is best performed in the quiet and sequestered cottage;—nor, thirdly, by calling for a *continuance of labour*, that is destructive of youth, unfitted for age or infirmity, and hostile to health and cleanliness,—for in the straw platt the first requisite is, that the platter should be neat and clean; and six hours occupation in the four and twenty are sufficient to provide for a child's maintenance, leaving the other hours for instruction and recreation.

It is now about five years, since the manufactory of *split* straw was introduced into this country by *Mr. Simpson*, of Lillypotlane, near Wood-street. The circum-



stances in favour of it are deserving of consideration. It is soon learnt, the process\* being simple and of easy acquirement. The raw material, from whence it is made, is of very little value. The work encourages cleanliness ; and is done in cottages, without prejudicing or interfering with the domestic habits or employments of the family. It is easily performed, requires neither exertion nor labour, and may be done by children of eight years of age, and persons incapable of other employment, who generally form a large part of the list of parish poor.

These are very considerable advantages ; —in respect that they provide for that class of poor, that are most helpless ; and in-

\* The art of blanching the straw, by fumigation with brimstone, has, till very lately, been withheld from the public, a restriction having been laid on communicating that part of the process. The reader will find an account of this, and the other parts of the process for preparing the split straw, in the “ *Hints for those who may be desirous of introducing the manufacture of Split Straw ;*” published separately by the Society, and intended to be inserted in the Appendix to this Volume.

introduce among them habits, not only of employment, but of cleanliness; it being indispensable that the hands, at least, of the workers should be clean, otherwise the work will be spoiled. Domestic and social kindness is also increased by it. The young platters frequently unite in the purchase of candles; and work alternately at their own or the neighbouring cottage; the parents joining the little social party, and the earnings of the evening abundantly overpaying the expense of the candles. While the families are collected in a light and cheerful room, at this COTTAGE ROUT, habits of industry and society are formed and united, examples of energy and occupation are offered to the other poor, and cheerfulness and mutual kindness are promoted by the plaintive song, or the village story.

Of the objections to the straw platt, the first is one, that has never before been applied to the employment of the poor.—It is the *profit* of the work, and the amount of the earnings;—which are so large, that a

good and diligent platter may, at times, earn much more than a guinea \* a week. This, where no prospective prudence exists, and there has been no regular training of education, may unquestionably lead to wasteful and thriftless habits ; and in those places, where the weekly payment is made at a public house, may be followed by drunkenness and dissipation. This evil, however, will soon be cured by the second objection, if it is well founded. It is said that, if this work should be much extended, so as to produce more than is wanted for our own supply, there will be a considerable *reduction* in the value and price ; as whatever is exported to Lisbon, the West Indies, and other foreign parts (and some ventures have already been sent ) the sale must be secured, and the market preserved, by the cheapness of the article.

Another objection arises from the muta-

\* A good platter will make three score yards of platt a week ; the best price for which, in spring and summer, is from 8s. to 9s. the score.

bility of fashion, and the danger that, when this manufacture might have become necessary to the maintenance of many thousand persons, its use should be discontinued by whim and fancy, as that of *spinning by hand* has lately been put an end to by the invention of machinery. The variation of price constitutes a fourth objection ; which exists to such a degree, that platt which will sell for 8s. a score in spring or summer, will not fetch above 4s. at the other times of the year; a fluctuation and uncertainty which, it must be confessed, forms an inconvenience with regard to an article proposed for the *individual employment* of the poor. In addition to this, it has been truly said in the fifth place, that the Leghorn platt, which is imported from Italy, being made of the whole straw, is considerably stronger and more durable than the *split* straw.

Of four of these objections, the first will cease to have weight, whenever the infancy of the manufacture is passed, and the market receives a sufficient supply. In the mean



time, it appears to me, that this increased advantage is excellently adapted to remove the prejudices of the poor against the novelty of the undertaking, and to rouse them from that torpor, to which they have been subjected by the want of domestic occupation. With regard to that reduction of price, which may be expected from the general prevalence of the manufacture, I should not be disposed to dread it as an evil; for at half the present price, a child of ten years of age might soon be taught to earn as much as ten pounds a year. Besides this, the exportation to the East and West Indies, and to America, would take off a considerable surplus; and the making of fashionable articles for foreign markets, would give employment to many distressed females in the metropolis, and in the large provincial Towns.

As to the influence of fashion, it should be noticed that, in the split straw, *there is a peculiar capacity of adaptation to all the varieties of caprice and fickleness.* The



*substance* indeed, must be the same ; but the *form* and *shape*, which give existence to the article, may vary so rapidly, as to outrun all the vagaries of FOLLY and FASHION ; and to produce more change of figure and appearance, than almost any other material, which beauty has ever adopted for its ornament.

The annual variation of price is an inconvenience, which would be still greater, if the period of variation were uncertain. The cottager is aware that in December and January, her platt, as well as her labour, is not of the same value as in June and July ; and she may therefore be prepared for the circumstance. To remedy this, however, and to provide a regular market for this article, the Society resolved, in July last, to incur some expense, in endeavouring to engage a person to open a commission warehouse in the metropolis, for the sale of the platt, under certain general and ascertained regulations. The present critical situation of

public affairs has hitherto delayed the carrying of this resolution into effect.

With regard to the fifth objection, it may be necessary to explain to some of my readers, wherein the *split straw* differs from the *Leghorn platt*. In the first, the straw is split by a machine into five or six strips, each of which is applied separately in the platting. In the latter, the whole straw is used; but it is the produce of a species of small wheat, sown on poor ground, for that express purpose, and with very little, if any, reference to the production of grain. The stems are very thin, fine, and short, being hardly more than ten inches high; the whole presenting rather the appearance of a crop of hay, on an arid soil, than bearing any resemblance to a field of English wheat.

The experiment of producing this species of straw in England, has been lately tried on an acre and a half of small rye, in a thin

sandy soil;\* the produce of which will vie with the best Leghorn straw, except as to a shade of colour, which is chiefly imputable to some wet to which the straw was exposed, just after it was gathered. One specimen which I have of the Leghorn platt from this English straw, is far superior in fineness to any that has been imported from Leghorn.† The experiment is trying on a larger scale of five acres ‡ more this year; so that it may be ascertained, whether those, who are not satisfied with the beauty of the English split straw, cannot be supplied with

\* The gentleman who tried this experiment, has lately established at Fincham in Norfolk, under the superintending care of his three nieces, a school, wherein fifty-nine children are employed in the straw platt, and are also taught writing and reading, and the girls sewing work. I will not anticipate the account of it, which is intended to be inserted in our reports.

† I estimate only on the *fine* platt; as it seems pretty clear that the *coarser* sort will not answer; the platting not bearing more than a price of twenty pence a score, which would not pay for the labour.

‡ The agriculturist need not be apprehensive of the waste of corn-land, by the introduction of this manufacture; as the peculiar soil for it should be so poor and thin, as not to be adapted to the growth of wheat corn.

the genuine Leghorn, from the produce of their own country.—The whole amount of the Leghorn platt imported\* has been estimated at half a million sterling. Probably this has been over-rated; and it appears that the importation, at present, is gradually diminished by the competition of the manufactory of the English split straw; the sale of which in the preceding year is calculated, in London only, to have amounted to two HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS.

Upon the whole, I beg leave to submit to the reader, that this manufacture, so friendly to the health, cleanliness, and education, of the poor, is intitled to his encouragement and attention;—whether he considers it *politically*, as giving increase to the productive labour and wealth of the country,—*individually*, as supplying a useful charity

\* I congratulate the English cottager that the duty on Leghorn chip and straw, which is more a matter of regulation than of finance, has been lately doubled, with a view to give some additional advantage in favour of the English platt.

for the cottager and his family,—*parochially*, as providing employment and subsistence for the helpless and unoccupied part of the parishioners,—or *remedially*, as affording relief to parishes and individuals who have suffered by the introduction of spinning mills.—The inconveniences attending the prevalence of the straw platt, are of little moment; and, for their correction, require only a moderate degree of care and attention, on the part of the other classes of the community. It is calculated to supply occupation for the recesses of the most sequestered cottage, and is exempt from all those dreadful and disastrous evils, which have too fatally accompanied the rapid and alarming increase of our extensive and populous manufactories.

17th Dec. 1803.



## No. CVII.

*Extract from an account of the Ladies Schools,  
and some other Charities at Leeds. By*  
THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.

IN the different parts of the corporate town of Leeds, there have been lately established, under the direction and care, and at the expense, of the ladies of that place, *five schools of industry*, containing each fifty poor girls, who are instructed in reading, knitting, and sewing. The schools begin and close each day with prayer; and two hours, every week, are devoted to religious instruction, and to the catechising of the children.

In giving the regulations of one of these schools, that near St. Peter's-square, we shall give pretty correctly those of the others.—The schools are equally open to all

persuasions of Christians, and are under the direction of a committee of twelve ladies, chosen annually by and from among the subscribers. The committee meets only once a quarter; the members dividing among themselves, in weekly rotation, the office of visitor; whose duty it is, either in person or by proxy, to attend the school twice a day, and to visit the poor families, who solicit the admission of their children, and to ascertain whether they are proper objects of the charity.

The mistress, who must be capable of teaching reading, knitting, and spinning, is allowed 8s. a week; and, on quitting or being dismissed, is to give or receive a months notice. Every subscriber may in her turn recommend one girl, not under nine years of age, who shall be a proper object, and whose parents will enforce diligent attendance. The children attend alternately; half in the forenoon from nine to twelve, and the other half in the afternoon from two till five, or in winter from one to four. Each girl

has annually the gift of a gown, petticoat, shift, shoes, and straw bonnet ; and those who clean out the school have, in addition, each a cotton shawl. During the four years that these schools have subsisted, they have supplied the neighbourhood with some good female servants, and have preserved several hundreds of children from ignorance and profligacy.

These schools are, as to their effects, assisted by, and at the same time lend their aid to, several other charities in the town. The private donations of coals, blankets, clothing, and other necessities at Christmas, are very considerable. The female friendly societies have been supported by the contributions of many honorary members. The alms houses, supplying not only cottages with annual stipends or parochial allowances, for about sixty aged and distressed individuals of the lower class, but also providing decent habitations and a comfortable allowance, for ten or twelve decayed gentlewomen, above sixty years of

age, do thus afford an asylum for aged and forlorn infirmity, without being liable to the common objection to all such charities, of their diminishing the exertions and the spirit of the other poor. The general infirmary at Leeds is open to all; to strangers, equally as to townsmen. The workhouse is beginning to support itself; the elder of the children being occupied in spinning and weaving cotton, while the younger are employed in setting cards, carding wool, and in straw platt; the sexes being divided into two separate, large, and decent apartments.

During the late prevalence of the *Typhus Fever* there, the *Stranger's Friend Society* distinguished itself in Leeds, as in other places, by extraordinary exertions in behalf of suffering humanity. The members sought out the poor and friendless, and visited the sick and forlorn stranger, in the abodes of misery and infection; extending their care and attention to those, who from parochial regulations were not entitled to what is called *townspay*, or to the attendance

of the town surgeon. Besides all this, they have established a house of recovery, to preserve their neighbours from the ravages of the *infectious fever* ; and have raised above £ 3,000. for the support of it, being nearly half as much as has been collected in Dublin for that purpose,—and *above twice as much*, as what the philanthropy of our British metropolis, repeatedly solicited, and abundantly liberal on other occasions, has been induced to contribute to this important, and necessary object.

### OBSERVATIONS.

The charities at Leeds, tho of a public nature as to their scale and effect, yet, in the greater part, may be classed under the head of private charities. Many ladies may be desirous of imitating the example of those at Leeds, but may not have the good fortune to meet with co-operators so intelligent, and so zealous, to direct or second their exertions. To them I shall therefore venture



to submit a few suggestions on private and insulated charity.—

In the dispensation of private charity, the difficulty is not so much to do good, as so to administer it, as not to do evil. Nothing is so easy, or seems more kind, or affords more immediate self-gratification, than to bestow *liberal pecuniary assistance on all the distressed poor*, who are known to us, or live around us ;—but the effect may be, not merely to injure the other poor, but even to prejudice the very objects of our benevolence ; whenever (which is the effect of most of the permanent or *expected* charities) we render them less industrious, less frugal, less managing, and less capable of supporting themselves by their own exertions.

True charity is *prospective*.—It looks to the AMENDMENT of the poor. It directs its efforts to the education of the young,—to the recovery of the sick,—the reform of the dissolute,—and the employment of the idle and unoccupied.—The first of these is, of

all charities, the most productive of good effects, and the least liable to objection. But it should not supersede the others ; nor yet should it exclude the *duty* of comforting, assisting, and protecting the aged, the helpless, and the afflicted.

In the exercise of our benevolent affections, we should ever bear in mind, that more is to be done by kindness and attention, than by money ; and that all charity should be so directed, *as to improve the religious habits and moral virtues of its objects*, and to render them more and more useful to themselves and to society.

In the commencement of charities, in any neighbourhood, it is best to begin gently and gradually:—otherwise the poor will form improper expectations of what is intended to be done for them ; and may become dissatisfied with any thing short of *idleness and plenty*. I should therefore recommend to begin by selecting two or three pious and decent women of good characters, and

capable of giving instruction ; setting them up with little schools, in situations convenient for the attendance of the poor children of the neighbourhood, selecting for each of them a few children to be paid for by the foundress, and leaving the other vacancies to be supplied by those, whose parents can defray the expense of their children's education.

The care and management of two or three such schools, will soon give the lady who conducts them, an opportunity of ascertaining the real character and situation of the parents and families of these, and the other children in the neighbourhood ; and how far their distress is the effect of waste and idleness, and how far of calamity and misfortune.—This is a great point gained ; as it will enable her to supply *occasional* relief when wanted, without laying the foundation for hopes or expectations, that may lessen their foresight and industry.

Six scholars, at sixpence a week each, continued in the school at the founder's



expense, with a donation of a few children's school books, will be found sufficient for the establishment of such a school as I refer to. In three instances, where they have been lately tried within my own observation, one has failed through the defect of the mistress: another has now thirty children; nine paid for by the foundress, and twenty-one paid for by their parents; so that this mistress is receiving 15s. a week. In a third, a little school in a country hamlet, there are six scholars kept, and two or three more, I believe, sent there; but I do not exactly know the present state of it.—Such a school will seldom fail of affording acceptable and unexceptionable relief for one well disposed and industrious poor woman, with education *gratis* for her children. It will also, in proportion to her capacity and exertions, supply the means of instructing, and preparing for life, several poor children, who might otherwise have been left entirely without either religious or moral instruction.

25 Dec. 1803.

## No. CVIII.

*Extract from an account of a Contagious  
Fever at Kingston upon Hull. By Miss  
Horner.*

IN the winter of 1801, the *typhus* fever prevailed in Duke-street at Hull,\* and spread by contagion to other parts of the town. Many persons died from the malignity of the disease, and many others were reduced by it to a state of extreme weakness. Five orphans of one family deprived of their parents by the fever, a pregnant widow left with six small children by the same fatal cause, and two other paupers

\* This winter (December 1803) the typhus fever again prevails among all ranks of people in this town and its neighbourhood. A Board of Health has been established and fever-wards have been appropriated in the attic story of the infirmary, for the reception of the poor who are ill of the fever; and who are admitted every day of the week at 12 o'clock at noon.



ill of the fever, all living in Duke-street, applied to the new workhouse in Hull for relief. The governor and guardians requested Dr. Crosley of that town, and Mr. Swann, the surgeon of the workhouse, to examine the houses in the above street, and to report to them the state of the inhabitants. They visited the street on the 5th of December 1801, and found that the fever had gone through six families, and that it had been communicated to 26 others. This report was laid before the magistrates, who appointed the same gentlemen to give immediate assistance to the sick, and to employ every means to destroy the contagion.

Tho Duke-street is not in a confined situation, and the houses are newly built, and only seven in number; yet each house contains eight rooms, and, with only three exceptions, every room a family. The rooms in which the fever prevailed, were close and crowded; the ceilings, walls, closets, and floors, were uncommonly dirty;

and the beds, bedding, and furniture, in the same state. The air in them was suffocating and offensive ; the crevices of the doors and windows were filled up with old linen or paper, and the landings were crowded with vessels of foul water. In these seven houses, there are 51 families,\* and 200 inhabitants. Many of the heads of these families are mechanics, as shoemakers, tailors, &c. and follow sedentary occupations at home. The children were likewise confined at home by the cold weather. The fever raged in 32 of these families ; in six of them, before the medical gentlemen began their attendance ; seventeen persons having had the fever, nine of whom died. Four of these were fathers of large families, five were mothers, and the remaining eight were children. Of one family the father and mother both died, and left five orphans, who were taken into the

\* Two rooms were deserted in consequence of two persons in one, and three in the other, having died in the fever : two other families took possession of the rooms, and both caught the fever ; they therefore removed to another part of the town.

workhouse. In another, the father died, leaving his widow pregnant, who, with six small children, must now chiefly depend on parochial relief. In the 26 families that Dr. Crosley attended, 70 persons had the fever; nine were fathers, 21 were mothers, and the remainder children. Many of them were in very great danger, but they have *all* recovered.

The fever in itself was very infectious; but the spreading of the contagion was much increased by idle, ignorant, and officious neighbours crowding the rooms of the sick; some sitting two hours and more at a time. By this practice they not only disturbed the patients, and rendered the air of the apartments less salubrious, but often carried the infection home to their own families. Many of them could name the time when, and place where, they caught the infection; and it was traced from one room to another in several families: to these acts of imprudence they added others equally dangerous. When any one

died, the body was kept in a putrescent state three days, exposed to the sight of every prying neighbour; and the funeral, particularly if on a Sunday, was attended by a great part of the inhabitants of the street.

The following plan was adopted to destroy the contagion, and to relieve the sick. The street was paved anew, the drains,\* which were defective, repaired, and a proper descent given to carry off the foul water. The ceilings, walls, and closets of the rooms were washed with quick-lime fresh from the kiln, and the furniture and floors with soap and cold water. The bed-sides were washed every morning, and the floors sprinkled with vinegar twice a day. The doors and windows were set

\* Too much attention cannot be paid in large populous towns to prevent the air from being contaminated by noxious effluvia exhaling from corrupt and putrid substances, arising from the neglect of cleansing the streets, lanes, and sewers sufficiently and frequently, and of suffering soil carts to stand in the streets at improper hours, and heaps of manure to remain in a town.



open\* every day three or four times, between ten o'clock in the morning and four in the afternoon. Steady and attentive nurses† were engaged to wait on the sick; and they were charged neither to suffer stran-

\* Dr. Lind of Windsor has given some curious facts of the beneficial effects of FRESH AIR, in the cure and prevention of the plague, as well as the infectious fever. He remarks that "Europe is never entirely free from pestilential contagion; it being more or less kept up in our jails, hospitals, and dirty habitations, situated in lanes and narrow streets of cities, and crowded manufacturing towns; and from thence communicated to our fleets and armies, and again by them, particularly the soldiers, disseminated over every part of the kingdom, so as to become seriously worthy of public notice.—The only possible means (he continues) of diminishing the growing contagion seems to be the establishing Houses of Recovery in every town."—He concludes with observing that "the impropriety of admitting typhus patients into hospitals and infirmaries, where there are convalescents from other disorders, from the *certainty with which the typhus contagion seizes them*, is too well known to every medical practitioner, to need being mentioned here."—Dr. Lind's Letter to Mr. Pennant on Typhus Fevers; printed in 1803 by Knight of Windsor.

† Four nurses and two superintendants who were engaged to attend the sick, and to take charge of the linen and other articles, caught the fever, but recovered. The workhouse surgeon, who only visited the sick a few times, took the infection and died.



gers to come into the rooms, nor to go into the apartments of other families.

Sheets, blankets, and rugs were provided, that the sick might lie warm and comfortable; and body linen\* to keep them clean in their persons. The dirty linen, taken off the beds and bodies of the patients, was immediately put into cold water; afterwards washed, and dried without doors; and every thing was speedily removed, that had a tendency to accumulate the contagious miasm. The hands of the patients were washed night and morning, and their mouths cleansed frequently with vinegar and water. Coals were provided for those, who had not the means to buy them. The sick and their families were supplied with arrow root, sago, or boiled milk for their breakfast; and good mutton broth\*

\* The necessity of the above requisites for the recovery of the sick poor being made known to Mr. Thompson, Deputy Governor of the workhouse, he immediately ordered them, at the expense of the workhouse.

† The following is the receipt:—15 lbs. of mutton, 3½ lbs. of barley, 2 cow heels, 2 sheeps-heads, 2 dozen of

was boiled every day for dinner; each family, according to the number it contained, receiving two, three, or more quarts daily, at 12 o'clock at noon. Good wheaten rolls, one day old, were distributed at the same time among the families, and in the same proportion; rice pudding, a little boiled mutton, or beef-steak, with half a pint of brisk small beer or ale, were allowed the convalescents. Milk sago, ale caudle, or arrow root,\* was prepared and given in the evening. In the worst stages of the

turnips,  $\frac{1}{4}$  peck of onions, half a handful of thyme,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of salt. These ingredients were boiled at the soup house, and made 52 quarts of very nourishing broth.

\* We can add to this account (from good authority) that the poor of Hull have been under the greatest obligations to the writer of this extract, and her two brothers, for the charitable aid they have been constantly giving to the distressed and needy. But during the late calamity, the sick families in Duke-street were infinitely indebted to them for the uncommon pains they took to promote the comfort and recovery of the sick, and the support of their families. They sought out careful, steady, and attentive nurses, gave them instructions and paid them wages; they kept the account of the wine and other expenses; they directed and superintended the making of the mutton broth, sago, and other articles of diet, and they frequently sent provisions to the sick from their own tables. B. 17th Dec. 1803.

fever, wine was sometimes the only thing that could be taken; and with this the patients were supplied in small quantities every half hour, hour, or two hours, as the case required. In some very weak persons, wine soured in the stomach, and brought on sickness and vomiting; in these cases brandy and water was substituted.

When the fever had been present only three or four days, and the state of the patient with respect to weakness, pregnancy, or any other cause, did not forbid, an antimonial emetic was given, which generally also operated as a gentle laxative. Afterwards, three table spoonfuls of a strong decoction of yellow bark were taken by an adult, every two hours. This medicine, assisted by sago, strong broth, and a little wine, was persisted in for three or four days, and frequently had the good effect to put a stop to the progress of the fever.

When the fever had continued more than four days, it then went through its regular

stages, and seldom terminated until the fourteenth, sometimes not before the twentieth or twenty first day.—The patients were supported by wine, sago and arrow root, given in small quantities, and at short and stated intervals; and the decoction of bark was ordered to be taken as I have before described. When the head-ach was severe, and the patient was delirious, a blister was applied to the nape of the neck, and an anodyne draught was given the last thing at night. When sickness accompanied the head-ach, compound tincture of lavender was added to the decoction of the bark. Costiveness was removed by lenitive electuary, or by a suitable quantity of powdered rhubarb mixed with a few grains of powdered ginger, or by an injection. The violence of the lax was restrained, by giving ten drops of tincture of opium, in every dose of the decoction; and the profuse perspiration was checked by half a grain of opium, taken every six hours. The severity of the cough was mitigated by a tea-spoonful of the tincture of Tolu, taken



every four hours. Three persons, who relapsed, began early again with the bark and wine, and recovered in a very few days.

The contagion was entirely destroyed, and the fever perfectly subdued, in little more than two months.\* The whole expense of supporting during this time, twenty-six

\* If the local histories of infectious fevers were collected, the aggravating sufferings of the poor from this calamity would be more correctly appreciated. The contagious fever was, in 1802, very prevalent in Leeds; having been carried in succession to the different parts of the town. From the 19th of March to the 14th of May 1802, there were in that town seven hundred and sixty-seven fever patients, of whom thirty-two died. Dr. Thorpe, the physician of the general infirmary, addressed a letter to Mr. Cookson, the chief magistrate, proposing a house of recovery. A meeting was called, the measure resolved on, and £3,000. subscribed for erecting an edifice, calculated to contain above thirty beds. Measures were at the same time taken, and with great success, to stop the contagion. In his letter on the subject, Dr. Thorpe expresses his hope, that “this subject may ere long become an object of Parliamentary investigation, as it is undoubtedly of national concern. I am persuaded (he continues) that if fever wards were universally established in populous towns, contagious fever might in time be almost annihilated.”—Those who wish to see a brief history of the typhus fever, and of the most effectual means for its cure and prevention,



families, containing one hundred and fifteen persons, of whom seventy had the fever, did not much exceed £ 200. The fever was particularly dangerous in the cases of adults; and, if one may argue from what took place in the six families that underwent the fever before Dr. Crosley attended, it is probable that many more fathers and mothers would have fallen a sacrifice, but for the great attention that was paid; and in such event their children must have gone to the workhouse. It is easy to calculate the difference between a family of children, removed as orphans into the workhouse, or supported at home by the labour of parents again enabled to maintain them; and, as in this instance, almost all of them warmly expressing their gratitude for the attention and care which had been shewn to them.

will be much gratified by the perusal of Dr. Thorpe's  
 " Hints and observations relative to the prevention of  
 " Contagious fever;" published at Leeds in 1802. B.  
 10th Jan. 1804.

## OBSERVATIONS.

It must be extremely satisfactory to the friends of humanity, to peruse so favourable an account of the successful attention and kindness, shewn in this instance to the poor of Hull, by those to whom their guardianship and protection has been confided by the legislature. It is indeed extraordinary, that of seventeen persons who first caught the fever, nine should have sunk under the virulence of the infection; and that of the number of seventy, who were afterwards afflicted with the fever, in consequence of the thoughtless inattention which at first prevailed, not one should have died, but all have been restored to health and to their families. Nor is it less deserving of observation that, from the hour that medical care was placed between the sound and the infected, the infection was stayed.

It is of the greatest importance, that the

poor should in this, and in every other instance, *know their own true interests* ; and that they should be aware, how much it is for their benefit, to make an early application,\* upon the appearance of *typhus* fever. It is also very desirable, that parishes should be aware how much may be done for the diminution of parochial expenses, for the preservation of the useful labourer, and for the expulsion of misery pestilence and death

\* The consequences of delay in application for medical aid, and of inattention in cleansing the rooms of fever patients, are exemplified in the case of *Thomas James*, who was admitted into the London House of Recovery on the 15th of November 1803, and died there of typhus fever on the 20th.—His wife had in October, been attacked with the fever, occasioned partly by a cold, and partly by the closeness and dirtiness of her apartment. The application to the fever institution was delayed, until she was in such a state, that the physician of the house thought it dangerous to move her. She was supplied at home with what was necessary, and directions given for purifying her apartment. These directions were neglected, and she was taken with some difficulty to a neighbouring workhouse, when she died.—Thomas James was soon after attacked by the same disorder. Six days elapsed before application was made to the House of Recovery ; to which he was then moved in an hopeless state, and in five days sunk under the disease. 17th Dec. 1803.



from the habitations of the poor, by a seasonable and well directed attention to the cure and prevention of infectious fever; and particularly, by their having recourse to, and encouraging, fever institutions in their neighbourhood.

The establishment of houses\* for the cure and prevention of infectious fever, has not

\* Upon the structure of houses of recovery, I extract here a few lines, from a letter of my excellent and valued friend, Dr. Percival; to which I have subjoined a few words of my own.—“ The two great points to be regarded in the structure of houses of recovery are accommodation, and ventilation; and I conceive the form best adapted, *mutatis mutandis*, to these essential purposes, is that of the new prisons at Manchester and Liverpool. The central part of the building might be appropriated for kitchens and other offices. The four radii might each consist of wards fifteen feet square by thirteen feet high. No ward should have more than two beds in it. For the contamination of the air arises chiefly from the crowding of too many sick persons in one chamber; and the patients sustain great injury from mutual disturbance, and from the multiplied spectacles of delirium, of suffering, and sometimes of death, to which they are witnesses in the large apartments of a hospital. Small chambers, also, have the advantage of being quickly cleansed and ventilated. The three stories should be of

been so well received in London, as in almost any other place in the British empire. Enough, however, has been done to form the local establishment; and whenever other parishes adopt the example of St.

the same height; and if the roof be covered with boards, under the slates, and a sufficient space be left between them and the ceiling, the temperature of the highest story, will be much less than usually affected by the heat of summer, or the cold of winter. In the provision for ventilating the wards, tho adequate supplies of fresh air are essential to its purity, the temperature of it also must be regarded, with a view to salubrity. For cold is not only ungrateful to the feelings of the sick, commonly very acute, but in cases of great weakness is injurious by its sedative action. The ventilation, too, should be accomplished without any *current* of wind perceptible by the patients; who entertain strong prejudices against a flow of cool air, especially when in bed or asleep. These prejudices, if they are to be deemed such, claim not only tenderness but indulgence. For tho repressed by authority, they will operate secretly and forcibly on the mind; creating fear, anxiety and watchfulness."— In addition to this I would observe, that it is very material that these houses should have water laid into all the wards, and a shower bath in each of them; that there should be a separate place for the immediate immersion of the cast garments of the patients in cold water; and that there should be separate apartments for the convalescents, with a yard or garden for them to take their air and exercise in. B. 9th Jan. 1804.



Andrew's Holborn, and St. Clement Danes,\* *the little insulated establishment in Gray's-Inn-Lane* will soon extend its sphere of action, and become adequate to the preservation of the whole metropolis from this dreadful calamity. The present parochial system of London operates not to prevent, but to increase and disseminate contagion; by removing infectious and delirious patients, *in a common hackney coach, to the parish workhouse*; to be afterwards restored to their infected apartments, should they not sink under the disease. If our fever institution were properly encouraged and supported, we should find that, instead of this mode calculated to increase the sufferings of the poor and the danger of the public, the patient would be carried in the litter† prepared for

\* Saint Clement Danes has subscribed £21. a year to the Gray's-Inn-Lane House of Recovery, and St. Andrews Holborn has agreed to allow two guineas for every pauper who shall be received into the house of recovery, with the assent of the overseers.

† The uncouth form of the *litter* belonging to the house of recovery in Gray's-Inn-Lane, lately attracted the attention of the inhabitants of *Grub-street*. It was

the purpose, and placed in an house fitted up and peculiarly accommodated for his reception; where he would be under the care of those, who have applied and directed all their leisure, and all their professional skill and attention, to this particular part of medical science.

The increase and propagation of medical skill, in respect of fevers, is a circumstance much in favour of these institutions.—Nothing could be more classically or luminously displayed to the public eye, than what Dr. Currie published, six years ago, on the benefit of the affusion of water, in cases of infectious fever. It is obvious, however, that the experience of cold and tepid\* affusion,

attacked, and a retreat compelled with considerable loss. The patient's danger and sufferings, however, being soon after considerably increased, she was at her own request, permitted by her neighbours to be removed to the house of recovery in Gray's-Inn-Lane; where she and her two children have been since restored to health, and her house cleansed and purified.—This is inserted, to shew the folly and mischief of such prejudices.

\* In some particular cases in the London House of

in the London House of Recovery,—the extraordinary success of the application,—and the circumstance (when applied in an early stage of the disease) of its annihilating at once the infant and nascent infection,—are now, by the practice of that house, placed in so glaring a light before the public eye, as to offer the most powerful additional confirmation, of the truth and precision of the conclusions, which Dr. Currie has so ably deduced.

Tho the attention of the metropolis has not yet been awakened to this interesting subject, it is some gratification to find that other places have not been equally indifferent to the interest of themselves and their neighbours. Manchester, which first set the example, has just erected an House of Recovery\* on a large and commodious

Recovery, where it was thought unsafe to use *cold* water, the tepid affusion has been applied with great success.

\* A subscription of near £4,000. has been raised at Manchester, and an open piece of ground purchased, for erecting a new and commodious house of recovery,

plan. In Leeds, above £ 3,000. have been subscribed for this purpose; and at Newcastle on Tyne, an establishment is forming, worthy of their opulence and public spirit. In other parts of England, similar institutions are forming; and in Dublin, Waterford, Cork, and many parts of Ireland, exertions have been made upon a still greater and more dignified scale. The subscription collected for the Fever Institution in Dublin, in one month, was three times the amount of what has been contributed by *all the inhabitants of our immense and opulent metropolis*, in the space of a whole year. The provision for fever patients, in the House of Recovery in Waterford,\* is above four

calculated to receive one hundred patients. In this building there are to be added separate wards for the scarlet fever.—The increase of cotton mills in that neighbourhood, renders this system of care and attention more necessary than it may be in other places.

10th Jan. 1804.

\* The following particulars, respecting the house of recovery at Waterford, I have extracted from an account sent me from that place.—“When, upon the visit of the physician, or the certificate of some other person of the faculty, the case appears to be proper for admission, the

times as much, as all we have been able to obtain in our imperial city. Between the 19th of August 1799 and the 1st of February 1803, being a period of three

litter is sent to convey the patient to the house. This litter consists of a sacking bottom, extended on a frame, placed between two poles, something like those of a sedan chair, with an oil cloth covering stretched over it, and the whole painted white. The carriage is very light, easily borne by two men or women; and in it the patient is privately conveyed, in a recumbent posture, to the house; and yet not excluded from the air, as it has loose hanging curtains at the end, like those on the English stage waggons. When received, the patient is stript of his clothing and put into a clean bed; the bedstead being entirely of iron, and the ticks filled with straw, stiched down like a matrass. When these bedsteads are unoccupied, the bed clothes are removed from the wards, and the bedsteads are hung up against the walls, so as to interfere less with washing the floors. The wards have not only windows on each side, but also apertures in the wall level with the floor, so as to supply a current of air under the beds occasionally. The patient's clothes, when taken off, are washed and purified, and laid by till wanted. In the mean time, the patient wears the dress of the house; if a male, a white woolen jacket and trowsers, or a jacket and petticoat, if a female. Upon the removal of patients, it is the general practice to take the straw out of the matrass and burn it, and then to have the ticking washed. After this, it is again stuffed with fresh straw, so as to be ready, when wanted.—Where a patient is recommended by a non-subscriber,



years and a half,\* *one thousand seven hundred and seventy three* fever patients, in Waterford, were rescued from disease and death, and restored to the blessings of health and industry;—the number being

it is expected that he shall have the patient's room, if he can afford it, whitewashed, at his own expense."— If this extract is of use to a fellow creature, even in a solitary instance, I shall think the time well employed in making it. B. *9th Jan. 1804.*

\* In the same period, seventy-nine patients died.— The number of patients received in 1801, were 875.— The reader may perhaps have a curiosity to see the proportions of those who have died or been cured in the several months of 1802. It is as follows:

	Admitted.	Cured and dscharged.	Died.
In the house, 1st Jan. 1802.	36		
In January - - -	54	60	2
February - - -	29	31	3
March - - -	30	35	1
April - - -	44	35	5
May - - -	40	49	2
June - - -	42	28	2
July - - -	36	35	7
August - - -	39	31	1
September - - -	40	45	0
October - - -	25	25	0
November - - -	25	24	2
December - - -	22	16	1
	462	414	26

equal to about *a fifth* of those who, by our bills of mortality, appear to have *perished* under this fatal disorder, in the British metropolis, during the same period.

27 Dec. 1803.

## No. CIX.

*Extract from an account of the mode of introducing the new Cottage Grates into Cottages. By the Rev. JAMES PLUMPTRE.*

IN a visit to the Royal Institution, in Nov. 1801, I saw some examples of the *Rumford grates*. Considering them as well calculated to warm rooms with a small quantity of fuel, and to be of great service if introduced into cottages, I resolved to make the experiment; and, as the most probable means of inducing others to adopt them, determined to put up one in my own house. I accordingly purchased one, and had it set in my parlour; and whenever my parishioners came to the house, I took them in to see it. I likewise kept two of the grates constantly in sight in my kitchen, and offered them in turn to almost all my parishioners, but without success: no one would venture upon one.

Last Christmas I tried another of Count Rumford's grates (his cottage grate, the whole apparatus of which costs 10s. and 6d.) in my kitchen. My servant, before it was set, was certain it never would answer, and particularly for roasting. I was determined however to make the experiment, in opposition to prejudice, and the grate was fixed; on trial, my servant likes it even better than the former, which made larger fires, and consumed more coals. I lay in my coals in the summer for the year, and my saving in the year 1802-3, compared with two years before, was just one-third, with the parlour grate the whole year, and the kitchen grate half the year.

In July last, I proceeded to order a dozen of the grates, No. I,\* but notwithstanding Count Rumford's endeavours to prevent imposition, the price was raised to *five shillings each* by the dozen. Having got the grates,

\* The cottage grate, No. I. mentioned in Count Rumford's Vol. III. p. 358. They are to be purchased at the Carron Company's warehouse, in Thames-street.

I offered to *give* one to any person, who would be at the expense of fixing it, being about 10s. 6d.; and, as it might be an inconvenience to the cottager to part with so much money at once, I offered to pay the bricklayer myself, being repaid by weekly instalments of one shilling.

The grate is fixed in a small chimney of brickwork, in the middle of the large open fire-place, occupying about two feet in width, and eleven inches in depth, being built up a little above the level of the breast of the old chimney, when the top on each side of the new chimney is covered over. This of itself is a great assistance in warming the room; for in those great open chimnies, no one can ever be warm; the larger the fire, the more cold air draws to the chimney; and in cold weather, while one side is scorched by the fire, the other is perished with cold. The brick-work was afterwards whitewashed over, which gave it a neat and cheerful appearance.



The next grate was fixed in a room at a cottage in my parish, which a gentleman was fitting up for a new school-room. This gave the thing some credit in the parish; and a neighbouring clergyman seeing mine, and liking it so much as to wish for one in his own study, I let him have one; and this circumstance gave them additional importance. The next I set was in the habitation of one of our cottagers. Being obliged to go out that day unexpectedly, as the bricklayer had set three before under my inspection, I thought I might venture to leave it wholly to him; but when I came back, it was done entirely wrong, being set so as to come too forward into the room, and thereby to destroy those seats in the chimney corners, which are the comfort of the cottage; thus taking more bricks, and making the work more expensive than necessary. Besides, it was not made wide enough, conveniently to admit the family boiler;\* and as this was de-

\* After this I inspected the setting of every one myself. Where the boiler, wanted for washing, was larger

signed for a pattern for others, I resolved at once to have it taken down, and reset. The poor family would have been satisfied as it was, but the alteration gave them great satisfaction.

So neat and cheerful was the appearance, and so convenient and comfortable was this cottager's grate found on trial, that all my neighbours immediately became anxious for them ; and the dozen are now disposed of. The application for them still continues ; and if a dozen more, or nearly that number, are applied for, I think I shall be able to find means to supply them. The improvement moreover is likely to spread around us, as the bricklayer, who lives in the neighbouring parish, talks of having a dozen from London, and to sell them out by retail.

than would go over the grate, set in the usual way, I have ventured to depart from the prescribed manner, and have a small ledge, or space, left on each side, and at the back, just above the level of the top of the upright iron bars, or spikes, to admit the boiler.

## OBSERVATIONS.

In many places money is often expended in winter by the principal gentleman, the clergyman, or by the parish, to purchase firing for the poor; but I really believe that *five shillings* for a *Rumford grate*, and the loan of the money for fixing it, to be paid by instalments, would go farther in warmth, comfort, and neat appearance, than ten bushels of coals; and that not only for one year, but for every succeeding year. And I make no doubt, but, in this manner, almost any improvement might be made in a parish, and the cottagers supplied, with ease both to themselves and their benefactors, with any useful articles.

Another advantage, which may arise from these grates, is their being indirectly the means of teaching the poor one branch of *honesty*. They are very convenient for burning any compact kind of firing, as coals, billet-wood, turf, and even cow-

dung, a common article of firing among our poor. But they are not equally convenient for burning that long, ragged, scrambling wood, which the poor too often obtain, either by breaking down hedges, or cutting down bushes. When the demand for firing is less, and stolen wood not convenient, it is to be hoped the practice of training up children in the habits of stealing it, which leads to other bad habits, will be discontinued.

11th Nov. 1803.

## No. CXI.

*Extract from an account of the Montgomery and Pool House of Industry. By THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.*

IN the year 1792, an Act of Parliament was passed for the better relief and employment of the poor in the parishes of Montgomery, Pool, and eleven other adjoining parishes, chapelries, or townships, comprizing a square of nearly eighteen miles, in the counties of Salop and Montgomery.

The provisions of the act are similar to those of some recent incorporations of the larger houses of industry. It grants the usual corporate privileges, appoints the annual and quarterly courts, the qualification of the guardians, and the mode of electing from among them twenty-one directors, one third of whom are to be



renewed annually. It provides for their weekly and special meetings, for the appointment of their attendants, and for the purchase of land for the accommodation of their local establishment ; giving them the exclusive right and duty of relieving their poor, with the peculiar provision, that if any uncertificated paupers should be allowed to continue resident in any of the parishes, such parish should be solely liable to the expense of maintaining them, if chargeable. The Act likewise entrusts the directors with powers of rewarding the industrious, of appointing special constables, of punishing vagrants, of letting out the poor to harvest or other work, and of apprenticing their children.

The act also provides, not only for the disposal of their savings and accumulations in the expected event of a considerable diminution of expenses, but also for the *entire* cessation of the poors rate, whenever the system was so far advanced towards *perfection*, as to make the profits of the work-

poor *entirely adequate* to the maintenance of themselves, and of *all the other paupers* who were unable or unwilling to work.

The directors had soon advanced far enough to have occasion for another act, which they obtained in 1796; whereby (after reciting that, in the execution of their trust, they had already borrowed to the amount of £11,625, and had incurred a debt of above £2,000 more) they were enabled to raise the further sum of £7,000 on annuities for lives, or on mortgage. This Act has also extended their power of nominating directors,\* appointing constables, removing paupers, and of enforcing their orders in respect of the poor, and of the steward and other persons employed by them.

They had in the mean time erected an

\* The first directors consisted of six clergymen and seven other gentlemen, of whom five were magistrates, and of eight farmers and tradesmen, all resident within twelve miles of the house.

house of industry, half way between Montgomery and Pool, upon land which they had purchased. The building, which is large and airy and well adapted to its purpose, was completed and furnished for about £ 13,500. The first reception of paupers was in March 1795. In addition to their home ground, the directors took a lease of one hundred acres adjoining, for the employment of some of their poor, and the supply of the house. The building upon it has been converted into a place for confining the profligate, and occasionally for the reception of patients in infectious disorders.

The prospect of success in the infant institution, was as fair and promising as could have been desired. Notwithstanding the interest of the debt, and the inevitable expense of a large and novel establishment, there appeared a fair ground of expectation, that a considerable reduction *might* be made in the parochial rates; an expectation founded partly on the augmented diligence

and attention of the new administration, and partly on the prejudices of the poor, and their apparent unwillingness to accept of the new mode of relief, by admission into the house.

The benefits of the system, in engaging the attention and superintendence of the most intelligent and respectable men of the district, invested with an unembarrassed power of relief and control, promised a decided superiority. No similar advantage, no comparison of effect, could be expected from the parochial routine of overseers, receiving their annual appointment by unselected rotation, and (according to modern practice) exercising, under the control of their vestry, subordinate functions, adapted to inferiority of character and situation; diverse, in every respect, from the designation of the act of Elizabeth, which named for the office of overseer, the most substantial and respectable householders in the parish.

How far, however, the *acme* of perfection has been, or is ever likely to be attained, in this or in any similar establishment, the reader may judge by perusing a very able and judicious account\* of this institution, written by a gentleman, who had been as sanguine in his hope of benefit on its first establishment, and during the whole of its progress has been as zealous and attentive in the conduct and management of it, as any other individual.—Referring the reader to the original work for more satisfactory information, I shall give an abridged statement of the effects of this establishment;—effects produced by the extent of the district, by the magnitude of the concern and the complicated nature of the accounts; and therefore resulting, not from inattention in this instance, but from the nature and general system of incorporated work-houses.

\* Letters to John Probert, Esq. by an honorary director,—the Rev. MR. LLOYD, Rector of Montgomery, and one of the directors of the house of industry. Sold by Longman and Rees.



In the first place, in so large a district as a square of eighteen miles (containing above three hundred square miles of country) the directors could not expect to acquire *personal* knowledge of the poor, except in the cases of those resident in their own immediate vicinage. At the same time it became the interest of the parochial overseer, to divert as large a portion of the general relief as he could into the current of his own parish. To the few usual questions he came prepared with the usual answers; and the relief was ordered of course, without any power in the directors of controverting a single assertion. In the consequence there were cases, referred to by Mr. Lloyd, where paupers were continued on their books some time after the cause of relief had ceased; and one is instanced, where a doubt had afterwards occurred, whether the pauper was then actually living or not. Besides this, there was a circumstance very injurious, by example and general influence, to the habits of the poor,—that the profligate and clamorous often obtained relief,

in preference to the modest, the necessitous, the aged, and infirm : and at length, some instances of imposition became so gross, that every remedy seemed hopeless, except that of “ a sweeping and indiscriminate order for bringing all the out-poor into the house ; and thus confounding old and young, healthy and sickly, sober and profligate, in one common mass ; and with triple the expense, which would maintain them in *comfort* and *contentment*, at their own houses.”\*

This inconvenience was increased and aggravated by another, which is a *fundamental objection* to all these establishments ; —THE DIMINUTION, AS TO ALL PARTIES, OF INTEREST IN THE SUCCESS OF ANY MEASURES FOR REDUCING THE EXPENSES OF THE POOR : —the effect being to weaken the attention of parishes, not only as to the conduct and domestic prudence, but also as to the occupation of the out-poor : so that the common purse is resorted to, without any previous

\* Mr. Lloyd's Letters, p. 26.

effort to obtain employment for the labourer, either on the roads or in husbandry, or for his wife and children in their cottage. It has also weakened the energy of those excellent and invaluable charities, which operate to improve the domestic habits of the poor; by affording private and personal attention to the internal system of the cottage, by assisting them under temporary difficulties, and enabling them to proceed in preparing and placing out their children in life.

These inconveniences, however, have not been caused (entirely) by the negligence or absence of the acting managers. "I have," says Mr. Lloyd, "often attended with the other directors, *from eleven o'clock in the forenoon, till five or six in a winter's evening*, without being able to dispose of the applications of distant paupers, and of a few internal matters of the most urgent nature. No wonder then, that such confusion pervades every department, when it is absolutely impossible, from the calls

without, to spare scarcely any time, for the examination of the diversified and extensive establishments within the house.”

The principal care of the accounts, and the internal management of the house, has necessarily rested, in a great measure, with the steward. This has involved in it an extensive and varied responsibility; including not only the provisions, clothing, manufactory, and farm, but also the moral discipline and domestic arrangement of the establishment. There does not, however, appear to have been any neglect on the part of the steward. His attention has been fully occupied with these and other objects. At the same time, he has no personal *interest* in the success; and is not even intitled to the *credit*, or invested with the *responsibility*, of the concern; a concern, of which a committee of the directors meets at stated times, to pass the receipts and vouchers; but of whom no one can so entirely devote his time and attention, as to keep up a clear and satisfactory view of the whole of the business.



Such is the brief history of this establishment.—Before I subjoin any observations on the subject, preparatory to a statement of Mr. Lloyd's proposal with regard to the future application of these new erected buildings, I will notice briefly some other of its effects. As to the health of the poor, it is observed by Mr. Lloyd “that the small pox, measles, and fevers of the most infectious kind, have been frequently propagated from the house over the district; and that the very change from spare and ordinary diet, and from free air and exercise to gross and abundant fare, accompanied by restraint in the house, hath more than once produced diseases of the most alarming nature.”\* As to their comfort, how far that has been promoted, we may judge from the feelings of the poor; while they continue to prefer the most scanty fare at home, to *plenty* in a house, so far removed from all their attachments and connections, and so different from the secluded quietness of their own cottages.—While the frugal habits of the

\* Letters, p. 40.



poor are injured by the example of waste within the house, their principles are undermined by the mixed and congregated society of the establishment ; where the thief and the prostitute, are suffered to associate with the young and inexperienced, and to destroy their comfort, while they *corrupt their morals.*

### OBSERVATIONS.

In the conduct of private concerns, the desire of advancement on the one side, and the fear of deterioration on the other,—the prospect of suffering by neglect, and of obtaining comfort and enjoyment by exertion,—supply a steady and continued motive to action ; in which the agency is unvaried, because it is directed to the object of individual benefit. In those public concerns from which personal interest is excluded, the want of this impulse must be supplied by public spirit, by benevolence, zeal, and philanthropy. These, however, act by

*assumed and acquired* energy and power ; and not like that instinct, which, by an innate and unceasing action, impels the sons of men to strive *to better their condition*. It is, on this account, necessary in all public concerns (and the necessity increases in proportion to the magnitude) that the operations should be simplified ; and that the attention, the labour, the credit, and the responsibility, should be so divided, proportioned, and appropriated, as not only to diminish the toil and exertion of each individual, but to leave no part of the labour, to which *some personal credit and responsibility* are not attached. The different parts of the detail, thus divided, may become easy in execution ; and it may be, in some degree, the interest of every one to execute properly and effectually the part which he has undertaken ;—he being to enjoy the credit of it, if well done, or to suffer the disgrace, if the duty is neglected.

The reverse of this arrangement has produced in the Montgomery House of

Industry, and in most other similar establishments, effects very different from what the wishes of the benevolent founders had prefigured to them. The great inducement to individual exertion,—the hope of advancement in life,—has been diminished in the poor; at the same time that every motive to improve the character and situation of the labourer has been destroyed, or materially weakened by the magnitude of a district, in which each individual land-occupier makes so inconsiderable a part. Besides this, the extent, and the intricacy, of the concern have been such, as to be incompatible with the other duties and engagements of those, who ought to have been responsible for the conduct of it.

A series of experiments has, for more than two centuries, been making on the management of the poor in this country,\* with a view to discover the most unexcep-

\* The reader will find a curious and interesting history of these experimental projects in Sir Frederick Eden's valuable work on the poor. Vol. I. p. 135-403.

tionable *theory* of operating upon them in the *mass*, without regarding *individual improvement* of habits and morals. The odious and impolitic measure of *farming the poor* to the best bidder (sanctioned by the 9th of Geo. I. and *not yet repealed*) has, but without any success, been modified and enforced by several subsequent laws. To this has succeeded the system of *district workhouses*; in one view better, because the power is placed in known and accountable hands; but in many respects, still more objectionable; and particularly in this,—that when individuals are helpless, idle, or depraved, every accession of *number*, congregated under one establishment, produces an increase of moral difficulty to contend with, in detail and execution.

In small parishes every individual has a concern, and that not a remote one, in the parochial expenditure. But in large incorporated districts, the interest becomes so weak and distant, as to have little or no operation; especially when, as in this



instance, and in that of most incorporated workhouses, the principle of union is that—the *quota* of each parish shall be fixed by the actual state of expenditure, *as it existed at the time of passing the act*; and the proportion shall not be liable to be augmented by any parochial neglect of their poor, or capable of being reduced by any attention to their welfare and improvement. This is a *radical defect*; the fundamental cause of AN INCREASING EVIL, which is felt wherever incorporated workhouses are established. It is an evil, to the extent and malignity of which no bounds can be set. It threatens an intolerable increase of our parish rates, accompanied by hopeless misery and depravity in the poor.

Another evil, connected with this, is the situation of the children, as to their education. When I speak of the education of children, I always mean a preparation, to enable them to do well and thrive, in the respective situations which they are intended to fill,—For agriculture, for the fisheries,



and for the navy, no previous condition can be less adapted to youth (their employment in cotton mills always excepted) than the sedentary and wasteful life of a large house of industry. From such a source we can never expect a race\* of hardy labourers, inured from their infancy to combat the weather, and to bear temporary want and hardship, with nerves strung and fortified by early exertion.—

Mr. Lloyd has concluded his work with a proposal, as to the future arrangement of this house, which will deserve the attention and consideration of the directors of that, and of every other, incorporated house of industry.—It is that *the house*, † and its government, *shall continue* under its present regulations; *as a place of resort for all those*

\* Letters, p. 43.

† These houses might furnish, not only places of resort for the helpless and unconnected poor, but also SCHOOLS for the education of the young persons of the district; and might supply (in some of their distinct and separate buildings) houses of recovery, for fever patients within the district.

*paupers* of the district, whose helpless and insulated condition affords no preferable relief at home:—that each parish shall resume the care of its own poor, and the relief and employment of them at home; with power to send any of its *paupers* (who cannot properly be relieved at home) into the district house of industry, paying to the corporation for their maintenance, clothing, and expenses, a fixed and regulated allowance.—The accounts of the house would then remain to be made up quarterly; and the deficiency supplied by the parishes, &c. rateably, according to their original proportions.—Such is the plan for making a beneficial and innoxious application of this local establishment; a plan, which is submitted to the consideration of the reader, not only as proper to be adopted in this, but in most of our other incorporated houses of industry.

3d Jan. 1804.

## No. CXI.

*Extract from an account of a Sunday School, at Kirkstall near Leeds. By Mrs. CARR.*

ABOUT three miles and a half from Leeds, near the remains of Kirkstall Abbey and on the banks of the river Aire, is a small hamlet consisting of ten or twelve families, all of them having a number of children. The fathers of these children are most of them employed at the forge, a neighbouring manufactory for cast iron: the mothers in general cannot read. There is no place of divine worship nearer than two miles; and Sunday was generally spent by the inhabitants, in sauntering through the woods, or about the ruins of the abbey. With a view to remedy this neglect of the Sabbath, a small school has been instituted there on Sundays. One of the cottagers, who has

himself seven children, and who has a roomy house, has been induced to act as master, for which he is very well qualified. A few benches and books constituted the whole of the original expense of the school. The master thinks himself amply rewarded by receiving a guinea at Christmas, together with a few clothes for himself and family. Such parents in the neighbourhood, as are induced to take advantage of the institution, and are from circumstances able to pay, are expected at Christmas to contribute a trifle towards firing. Every person willing to conform to the rules of the school, by regular attendance and decent behaviour, is invited to send his children. Neglect of attendance and want of obedience are faults for which, if persisted in, the children are discharged the school. Thirty children, from five to fourteen years of age (being an equal number of boys and girls) were there yesterday, Sunday April 17th, decent in their appearance and behaviour, and many of them already able to read very well. Children, under the age of five years,

are also permitted to come ; and attend with great willingness, thereby acquiring habits of quiet attention, before they are capable of learning. Several of the elder inhabitants avail themselves of this opportunity to hear the Bible. The whole place has now a very different appearance on a Sunday ; and the hedges and birds-nests escape on that day, at least, from the depredations consequent to total idleness. A few books are occasionally given, as rewards for regular attendance, and good behaviour. Some children come from so considerable a distance as two and three miles, and are remarkable for regular attendance. There are, at some seasons, above forty scholars thus instructed, with very little expense and no trouble. The school commenced in June, 1801. Convinced that time bestowed on these establishments is of much more consequence than the money they may cost, the instructors of this little school have made a point of visiting them as regularly, as distance well permits in winter ; and, when on the spot in the summer months, at least once



every Sunday, hearing the children read, and themselves bestowing the trifling rewards.

### OBSERVATIONS.

The above is deserving of notice and imitation, in every part of England. There is no mode, in which so much benefit may be conferred with so little expense and attention; whether we look to the education of the young, to the comfort, improvement, and religious habits of the old and middle-aged, or to what is sadly neglected in many parts of England,—the due observance of the Sabbath.

*18th April, 1803.*

## No. CXII.

*Extract from an account of a school for poor Children, at Fincham. By Mr. CORSTON.*

IN October 1802, a school was opened at Fincham, in the county of Norfolk, for the education of the children of that and the adjoining parishes. They are instructed twice a day in reading, and eight of them in writing. The rest of their school time, being seven hours of the day, is employed in the platting of split-straw ; for which, in addition to the advantage of education, they receive pay, according to the amount of their respective earnings.

There are at present in the school sixty-four children. Four have left it to go into service, and seventeen have acquired a competent knowledge in the straw platt, and have returned home to their parents. The

school\* is under the care and direction of three sisters; who have divided it into three classes, making the undermentioned weekly payments on the average to each of the children, for the time they are employed in the platt.

Nineteen children, from seven to nine	s. d.
years old, average each per week	1 6
Twenty-seven, from nine to twelve	
years each - - -	3 0
Eighteen, from twelve to fourteen	
years each - - -	4 0

All the children are in good health, clean, and orderly. The produce of their work is sufficient to supply (after the first month) the average payments before mentioned,

\* Upon the subject of schools, I have the pleasure of stating that, by the exertions and attention of MRS. GOODENOUGH and some other ladies, the WESTON SCHOOLS, established by the late MRS. HOCKER, continue to flourish. There are at present in the five schools eighty-four children; seventy-one girls, and thirteen boys.—The children are admitted from three years old, and are placed out in service at fourteen. B. 27 Jan. 1804.

without any deduction, except *3d.* a week for each child who learns to write. These allowances, for children who really work but seven hours a day and whose ages are from seven to fourteen,\* amount on an average to as much as *2s.* and *10d.* a week for each child, exclusive of the benefit of instruction and education.

The school is very frequently visited by the Rev. Mr. Forby, the Vicar of Fincham. He very kindly allows himself to be referred to, as a kind of judge or arbitrator, upon any matter arising in the school; and, in case any of the children have been neglectful and inattentive, he makes use of his influence to amend and improve them, and to prevent a repetition of the cause of complaint.

\* Children who live near the school, go home to dinner, from *12* to *1* o'clock, and lodge at home: of the others, some bring their dinners, and return home at night; others lodge at Fincham, and are at home only from Saturday to Monday.

## OBSERVATIONS.

In the twentieth Report of the Society, the reader will find some observations on the manufacture of split straw, with instructions for those, who may be disposed to introduce it into parishes, for the employment of poor children. To such persons this account of the Fincham school is addressed ; as affording an example of the manner, in which provision might be made, in almost any part of England, for the education of all the poor children, and particularly the females,\* of a neighbourhood, with very little trouble or expense.

\* Dr. Briggs has introduced the split-straw manufacture, as part of the girls' employment, in the Kendal schools. Several of the girls now earn 2*s.* and 6*d.* a week by it, tho they give up part of the day to needlework. He observes that, if it be sufficiently lucrative to keep the girls at school, that will be very satisfactory ; and it promises to do that, even at as low a price as 1*s.* 6*d.* the score. B. 31 *Jan.* 1804.



The benefit which the children receive from their admission into this school is very considerable; inasmuch as, without that excess of labour or confinement which is exclusive of amusement and injurious to health, it provides for their education, and prepares them for their course through life, by early habits of ORDER, CLEANLINESS, AND APPLICATION,—the three most essential articles of acquirement.—To parents it is of no small importance; in that it fits their children to get their own bread, while young; and by the profits of their work, supplies, in present, almost all the expense of their food and clothing, at an age when they are too young to go into service.—What are its advantages to the public, will be obvious to those, who are aware, how much we all suffer by the pilfering and profligate habits of our *little parochial pensioners*; and how large a portion of our parish funds (sufficient, perhaps, to give education and employment to all the poor in England) is annually expended in breeding up and nourishing in *idleness*, those who, in mature

and advanced age, are destined to form the *helpless* and *noxious* part of the community.

The beneficial influence on this school, from the frequent visits of the clergyman, is of too much moment to be passed by without notice. In all ages and ranks of life it is very essential, that we should respect the justice and impartiality of the government to which we are subjected. There is a degree of restraint and coercion, which cannot be dispensed with in schools ; and in reconciling the minds of this little flock to something so opposite to the unrestrained idleness, in which they have hitherto been indulged, the visits of a person who has had no previous bias, and the impartial interference of such a character as the resident clergyman of the parish, must have the best and most salutary effects.

In supplying the *idle* with employment, and in seducing them to take the benefit of it, it frequently occurs that the *industrious* are

checked in their exertions and prejudiced in their means of life. When, for example, the needlework of a district is engrossed by a parish workhouse, or by a charitable school, and the work is to be disposed of to the neighbourhood at an underprice, the solitary sempstress, who has been striving to maintain herself by being useful and industrious in her own cottage, is thereby deprived of her livelihood, and is reduced to the degraded situation of a pauper. This is an evil, which is more or less incidental to every plan for employing the poor, except in those cases, where *new occupation* is devised and introduced. Such, in an eminent degree, is the manufacture of split-straw; which, while it gives food and employment to the idle and unoccupied, does not interfere with any means of subsistence, which the industrious and well-disposed do at present enjoy.

The objection\* to split-straw, as a durable and permanent article of manufacture, has

\* See p. 106.

been already noticed in the Reports. There seems no reason to apprehend the discontinuance of the *material*, as an object for fashion to mould and shape into all its variety of fickle and capricious forms. —Let us, however, for a moment imagine that, after the prevalence of a few years, it *may* go into disuse. If in the interval (and I will calculate upon even so short a term as five years) we can make it the instrument of giving instruction to the rising generation, and of educating a succession of children, *for five years only*, in habits of *order, cleanliness, application, and usefulness*, it will confer on this country one of the most important advantages it has ever received.

30th Jan. 1804.

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ERRATA.

Page 100, line 4, for 35s. read 15s.

— 151, for No. CXI. read CX.

## No. CXIII.

*Extract from an account of the Ladies Committee for promoting the Education and Employment of the Female Poor.* By  
THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.

AT the Meeting of the “ Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor” (March 1804), the Committee directed an Address\* to be sent to those Ladies who were Subscribers to their funds, and to some others, proposing the formation of a LADIES COMMITTEE, FOR PROMOTING THE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF THE FEMALE POOR.†  
—The want of instruction, and of the means of occupation, are causes which have con-

\* See a copy of this Address, No. VII. in the Appendix.

† The reader will find the first suggestion of this Plan in a note to the Introductory Letter to Mr. Addington. See p. 33.



tributed fatally and extensively to the prevalence of *profligacy* and *misery* among the lower classes of females in England, and have called for the union and co-operation of the more elevated and enlightened of the sex, for the correction of so general an evil.

The objects proposed for consideration, were classed\* under three heads; 1st, the forming of similar Committees in provincial towns and in the metropolis; 2d, the promoting of the moral and religious Education of the Female Poor; and 3dly, the supplying of them with healthful domestic employment. The Plan included the formation of a seminary for educating the unprovided daughters of Clergymen, officers, and others, as teachers, and governesses, for private families and female boarding Schools.

The establishment of such a seminary, at the same time that it constituted a very

\* See the detail of these objects and the proposed arrangement of the business, in the Appendix, No. VIII.

desirable and essential part of the general plan, did certainly create a considerable portion of its difficulty. With a view, therefore, to anticipate objection and facilitate arrangement, a suggestion of some hints, or rather an outline\* on the subject, was circulated with the other papers.

The Plan, as soon as it was arranged, was submitted to HER MAJESTY; who has been graciously pleased to approve it, and to command her name to be inserted as PATRONESS, and those of the PRINCESSES as VICE PATRONESSES, of the institution. With this powerful advantage, and with the permission of the Ladies who compose the Primary Committee, notice of this institution has been ordered to be circulated, and to be inserted in some of the public papers; and, the primary Committee having been originally formed, and the first arrangements made, with THE QUEEN'S approbation, it has been established that no election

\* See a copy of this outline, with some notes and observations, in the Appendix, No. IX.

of a Member of the Ladies Committee, nor any Rule or Regulation for their government, shall be valid, until it has had HER MAJESTY'S Sanction.

### OBSERVATIONS.

It may appear unnecessary to trouble the reader, with any remarks, on the *justice* and *propriety* of restoring to women those employments, which decency and moral fitness seem to have exclusively marked for their own. To *men*, the extended commerce and increased manufactures, the unbounded enterprize and unrivalled prosperity, of Britain will supply countless occupations, adapted to every turn of mind, and to every shade and gradation of talent. At the present crisis, and probably for some years to come, the strength and vigour of every *male* arm will be wanted, for the defence and protection of our beloved and envied country. To *women* there can be opened, at best, but a limited scope of action ; and it is for the benefit of

all, looking to the increase of the general fund, that they should not be precluded, from contributing their portion of productive industry. Not merely the husband, the father, and the brother, are interested in their possessing the means of employment, but the community at large, every member of society, must feel the benefit of so great an addition to national produce, and moral virtue.

Is charity the object?—Reason and practical experience will demonstrate, that to enable even a few individuals to live by the exertions of industry, and to preserve them from vice and indigence, is an act of greater and more useful charity, than to feed thousands in gratuitous idleness. The operation is in itself more easy; and the effect once produced, the labour ceases, and only the pleasure and gratification remain.

These are general motives, applicable to every period and region of the world: but they must have ten-fold weight, in the

British empire, at the present hour. A pestilential disease, of the most malignant nature, has corrupted the morals and mental sanity of a large portion of Europe. In order to exclude the infection, some line of demarcation is necessary to be drawn between Britain and the infected regions: and, if more cannot be done,—at least that sex, to whose early care and instruction, we owe the religious and virtuous impressions of the infantine and youthful age,\* should be preserved pure and immaculate; so as to be rendered the instruments of health and safety to others, whom curiosity or inattention may have exposed to the contagion.

If we will take the trouble to compare the moral and religious state of England with that of France and Italy, and to appreciate the *probable* character of masters

\* Where, in mature life, men have surmounted great trials and temptations, it will almost always be found, that to the *early maternal lesson* they were indebted for their strength and preservation.



imported from either of those countries, we may judge how far it can be wise and judicious, or even fit and decent, that the instruction of our daughters and sisters, in music, dancing, drawing, French,\* and the variety of crowded and incumbered accomplishments, which do now make essential

\* Tho it is *foreign* to the present subject, yet it is hardly possible to avoid noticing the many and great disadvantages, to which England has been subjected, by the FRENCH LANGUAGE having been adopted, as the general channel of communication, in all matters of *foreign treaty*. — Whilst this, and other kingdoms in Europe have been negotiating in a foreign tongue, France has had the partial and unjust benefit of using her own idiom and her own dialect. — The aboriginal language of modern Europe is the Latin. If this, the dialect of ancient Rome, were to be generally used by the *diplomatic corps*, instead of French, more certainty and more justice would be obtained, by the usage of a dead and ascertained language, instead of transient and fluctuating phraseology. — If the correction of this inconvenience be desirable and practicable, it is hardly necessary to observe, that the present is, of all times, the most propitious and favourable to such an alteration. — As to the use of the French language in female schools, it is impossible not to observe of many of the sources of literature which it opens, that they are highly *tainted and infected*. At the same time there seems to be but little hope of succeeding, under modern prejudices, in bringing the language into any degree of disuse.

parts of female education in every rank and station of life, should be intrusted to such adventurers,—tinctured as many of them must be with foreign habits and vices ; —and this too, of young women in the bloom of youth, at the period when the female character is to be formed, and when every exertion ought to be made to fix *the eternal and unvaried principles of religion and virtue* indelibly on the mind. Those who have had any opportunity of appreciating the superior degree of taste, talent, refinement of feeling, and sympathy of character, which many English women possess, may correctly ascertain, whether they are by nature unfitted to communicate instruction to their own sex, and how far the employment of *foreign men*, for the education of *English women*, is a necessary and incorrigible evil.

The personal attendance of *male* hair-dressers, shoemakers, and staymakers, in the dressing rooms and private apartments of our fair country women, has been

frequently noticed, not only as indecorous, but as derogatory to the character and intrinsic purity of the sex. It should seem natural for female delicacy to accept, as an attendant at the toilet, the assistance of a virtuous and well educated English woman, in preference to *men*, unknown, unaccredited, and no otherwise recommended than by having been imported from the shores of France or Italy. It should also seem natural for ladies who feel what is due, either to their own character, or to the unprotected of their own sex, to desire to frequent those shops only, from whence the employment and assistance of women are not entirely excluded; and to avoid those, where files of athletic men,\* ranged

\* In this age of chivalry and warlike enterprise, the appeal might with confidence be made to the *gallantry* and *bravery* of those gentlemen, who, so *bravely* and *gallantly* equipped, do now attend, *in the place of females*, in many of the shops of the metropolis,—whether they will not be better employed in defending their fair countrywomen, than in depriving them of the means of support and existence?—Whether they would not handle a Birmingham firelock, better than Brussels lace; and feel more satisfaction in pinning a Frenchman

in order behind the counter, are employed, like Hercules in the service of Omphale, in the most minute, trivial, and effeminate occupations of the female sex.—

In the execution of the proposed plan, it is of great importance for those ladies, whose talents and discretion will direct the efforts of their benevolent coadjutors, to caution them not to attempt too many, or too extensive objects;—an attempt, which may excite the jealousy and hostility of some, who might otherwise have been disposed to have given, not merely their wishes, but their aid, to the attainment of proper and practicable objects.—If, without carrying the war into the aggressor's country, the fair sex can only regain the territory which has been wrested from them,—or (to drop to the ground, than a feather to a cap?—Admired as they now justly are, whether they will not be more admired, when decorated with a military uniform, and employed in manly occupation? And whether the love and gratitude of the sex will not be more delightful, than the confidence of the toilet, or an occasional smile of approbation, on the tasteful disposition of a ribband?

the metaphor) if, without interfering with any occupation which properly belongs to men, they can resume those which do peculiarly and exclusively appertain to their own sex,—those which public morals and female decency require to be in the hands of women,—and which the candour and good sense of every unprejudiced man would admit to be proper for women only ;—and if to this they can add, for the benefit of the ignorant and unprotected of their own sex, such a degree of education,\*

\* One of the most important objects of the Ladies Committee will be to establish a seminary, for the education of female teachers and governesses. In such a School it seems to be indispensable that the establishment should be strictly of the Church of England; not from exclusive bigotry, operating to the prejudice of any denomination of Christians, but from the necessity of the peculiar doctrines of every church, making an essential part of education for teachers of youth:—a consideration very often neglected in the selection of a teacher, or governess.—Nothing will prevent the establishment of similar schools for other sects, and those even with the assistance of the Ladies Committee, or at least of some of the District Committees. It will probably be found that of all persuasions of Christians in England, those of the established church have been most deficient in the provision for the peculiar education of their own poor.



as may make them useful to themselves and to society, and may impress them with the principles of religious and moral truth, —MILLIONS, WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE SUNK IN MISERY AND VICE, will live innocent and happy ;—will live to commemorate the virtues, and record the names, of their BENEFACTRESSES ;—as the friends, not only of their country, but of the human race.

*13th April, 1804.*

## No. CXIV.

*Extract from an Account of a Lying-in  
Charity at Woolwich. By JOHN ROLLO,  
M. D.*

IN June 1794, there was formed at Woolwich, a Lying-in charity for the relief of indigent wives of soldiers of the Royal Artillery. Some instances of extraordinary distress having occurred, it was not thought right to leave similar cases in future to the chance of individual benevolence; but that an establishment should be formed for the relief of the female sex, at a period of suffering, which is entitled to every degree of assistance and sympathy. Lady Emily McLeod, and several other ladies of the officers of the Royal Artillery, agreed therefore to form a society for the relief of these poor women; the object being to supply them with a midwife, and with a pound of meat, a pound of bread, and a pint of porter per day, for the first fortnight after the

lying-in. No money is given; child-bed linen, which at first was lent, is not now continued; the supply of it not so well answering, nor being so requisite, as in some other places. In cases of difficulty the surgeon-general, or one of the regimental surgeons attend.

The charity has been confined to those poor women who have one child, or more, and are wives of privates in the regiment,\* or of military artificers, having no particular employment. Women who have no child, may in particular cases also have the benefit of the midwife.

The whole of this plan is conducted and

\* A society for the benefit of the widows of officers, and one more recently instituted for the relief of the widows and orphans of soldiers of the regiment, do credit to the feelings and good sense of the Artillery corps. The latter was originally formed by Marquis Cornwallis, the Board of Ordnance, and the officers of the regiment; but is now chiefly supported by monthly stoppages, voluntarily supplied by the privates out of their pay. A medical library has been established there, peculiarly convenient to the medical men, but in its consequences beneficial to all.

executed by Lady Emily Mc Leod, with the assistance of the surgeon-general, Dr. Rollo ; who enquires into, and reports upon the cases. In the preceding year, 1803, relief has been given to ninety-six women, at the expense of £58 14*s.* 7*d.* ; the whole number of lying-in women, assisted, since the commencement of the institution, being 546.

### OBSERVATIONS.

It must be a circumstance of the highest gratification to the ladies who have supported this charity, to reflect how large a number of their own sex they have soothed and assisted in the time of agony and distress,—what strong impressions of gratitude they have left on their minds,—and what favourable lessons of kindness and charity to their fellow sufferers, they have afforded to the persons who have been relieved by their care and attention.

This charity is not liable to the common

objection, of diminishing the energy of the poor ; it not superseding the general necessity of exertion, but providing only for a peculiar case of pressure and suffering ; and being confined to the relief of those, who have not had the means of making the previous provision themselves ; so that while it is exempt from the danger of lessening the spur to industry, it has retained in the hands of the more elevated and opulent of their female neighbours, the enviable and divine privilege, of affording relief to the distressed, and of giving ease and consolation in one of the severest afflictions and sufferings to which human nature is subjected.

*1st June, 1804.*



## No. CXV.

*Extract from an account of the provision  
made for the Poor of Wymeswould. By  
the Rev. R. A. INGRAM, B. D.*

THE parish of Wymeswould, in the county of Leicester, was inclosed in 1758. The width of the principal roads or lanes, as required by the award under the act of inclosure, is 50 yards; a considerable proportion of which is directed to be let out for the use of the cows of the poorer class of inhabitants, who have no land of their own. The whole quantity of ground included in these lanes is computed at 80 acres. About 17 acres are rendered unprofitable by roads, paths, drains, &c.: there remaining then 63 productive acres, the herbage of which is commonly let out from Old May-day till Martinmas, for the feed of about 36 cows, at the limited sum of six shillings a cow. A few years ago, this

rent was 5s.; but the herbage has been so much benefited by the continual improvement of the roads, that 6s. now is a lower rent than five was a few years ago; and is indeed a very low rent. A certain part of the lanes is allowed to be rented by the farmers; but the whole is usually let to none but the lower ranks of people, the generality of whom have no land whatever, except perhaps small cottage gardens; and their cows are supported in winter by fodder purchased of the farmers, or they are joysted. No person is allowed to send more than one cow into the lanes, as there are generally applications for many more than 36, which gives the parishioners an opportunity of discriminating those that are most deserving of encouragement. To prevent fraud or loss, the rent is paid at the time of hiring, and is expended on the roads in the following part of the spring and summer. By the farther improvement of the roads, so that the grass will be less cut up by traffic upon it, a larger number of cows may be admitted with as

much benefit as 36 are now. After Martinmas the lanes are let out to the highest bidder for sheep walks till the first of March, from which time till Old May-day no stock is admitted upon them. Some poor person is appointed to the office of lane-keeper, whose business it is to be on the look out and prevent depredations, and either himself or his children for him (who are commonly ready enough to volunteer their services) to assist in collecting the cows morning and evening to be milked ; for which services he is allowed 1s. for each cow, and a meal of milk in the season, besides the good-will of his several employers, which is commonly of some value to him. The population of Wymeswould is between 8 and 900 souls, and about 170 families. Those families that are not settled on the parish, are not considered as entitled to the benefit of the lanes. There may be about 100 families that are, of which number 36 enjoy the above privilege every year. The principal inhabitants are very sensible that the above employment of their lanes has

contributed very much to keep down the poor's rate, and that during the late dear-ness of provisions many families were kept from the parish, that otherwise might have been very burdensome.

### OBSERVATIONS.

To furnish the labouring classes with a convenient mode of accumulating and improving their savings from time to time, and of realizing their little property, is the most efficacious means of exciting a general spirit of industry, sobriety, and frugal management; and of obviating many inconveniences, which, in the present state of society, are justly attributed to the poor's laws. It is also the most judicious system of political economy. A labouring man who has raised himself so high in the scale of society, as to be possessed of a small share of ostensible property, if it be only of a cow, is ready to improve many resources, either to advance himself still higher, or to prevent his being again degraded, which

others in an inferior condition despise and neglect, preferring on every emergency to become stipendiaries on the public. Thus the former has not only in appearance, but without doubt does on the whole enjoy more real comfort, and at a smaller share of national expenditure. The making that use of commons, which is recommended by Mr. Arthur Young,\* is much to be approved of, where the opportunity still exists; and it could be wished, that the interests of the labouring classes were more judiciously consulted, than is usual, in inclosure bills. To make them merely an allowance of money or fuel, in lieu of the advantages they previously derived from the commons, constitutes no essential improvement in their condition; and, upon the whole, commonly leaves them in a less desirable situation with

\* See his "Inquiry into the Propriety of applying Wastes to the better Maintenance and support of the Poor." Mr. Young's idea coincides very much with Mr. Ingram's. See his "Inquiry into the present Condition of the lower Classes, and the means of improving it." See also his "Essay on the Importance of Schools of Industry."



regard to themselves, and more burdensome to the public, than they were before the inclosure.

Farmers are averse to selling milk ; while poor persons, who have only one cow, generally dispose of all they can spare. In parishes, therefore, where the poor have a prospect of the means of keeping a cow, or at least of being able to purchase milk for their families, the inducement held out to acquire a settlement there, may, in a manufacturing country at least, be attended with some inconvenience. These, however, are narrow and illiberal considerations ; and, if admitted, would not only operate against every parochial improvement in the character and condition of the poor, but would go to increase their sufferings, in order to make them seek a settlement in some other parish. Besides, the objections are only local, and do not constitute a sufficient reason, why, in those districts which are tolerably free from manufacturers, labourers in husbandry should not be generally indulged

with the privilege of keeping a cow, wherever it is practicable.

It may be of use to suggest another plan, which might be practicable elsewhere. Our principal lanes are for the most part full 40 yards wide ; they are very well exposed to the sun and air, and 60 or 80 feet on one or the other side of the carriage way might be inclosed without any sensible inconvenience to the roads. These inclosures might be let out to the labourers for cottage gardens, or as pastures for cows. It should be required of them to sink a ditch between the inclosures and the roads, and to keep it continually well secured. They should not be permitted to plant any trees or shrubs on the side of the inclosure nearest to the roads, or to allow their fences ever to be more than four feet high above the level of the ground. As the carriage-road itself would be raised, hardly any sun or air would be intercepted. Indeed, it should seem that, in lieu of directing the roads to be made an unreasonable width

for the benefit of the sun and air, it would be more for the interest of the community, as well as for the advantage of the poor, and no real injury to the roads, if some such conditions as these were generally prescribed by bills of inclosure, viz. that the carriage way should be 30 or 40 feet wide, more or less, as it is a public or private road ; and that 40 or 50 feet on each side should be inclosed in the way recommended above, and divided into different allotments, and let out for the benefit of industrious labourers. The grass would then be much more valuable than in open lanes, much less subject to depredations, and not so liable to be injured by traffic ; and it would be rendered the interest of some person to manure, drain, or otherwise improve it. The rent of these inclosures might constitute a fund for the benefit of the poor, or those of the lower classes that have no land, out of which they might be accommodated with small sums, to be repaid by instalments, so as to enable them to purchase a cow, or build a cottage, &c. As this fund

continued to accumulate, it might at length be employed, in addition to any other subscriptions, as a security for the establishment of a parochial bank for the improvement of the savings of the poor, the payment of annuities, or for other similar objects.

*24th April 1804.*

## No. CXVI.

*Extract from an account of a Charitable Bank at Tottenham for the Savings of the Poor. By Mrs. WAKEFIELD.*

FOR the purpose of providing a safe and convenient place of deposit for the savings of labourers, servants, and other poor persons, a charitable establishment has been lately formed at Tottenham, in the county of Middlesex. It is guaranteed by six trustees, who are gentlemen of fortune and responsibility, most of them possessing considerable landed property. This renders it as safe and certain as institutions of this kind can be, and insures it from that fluctuation of value, to which the public funds are liable. The books are kept by a lady, and never opened but on the first Monday in every month, either for receipts or payments. Any sum is received above one shilling; and five per cent. is given for



every twenty shillings that lies twelve calendar months; every person so depositing money being at liberty to recal it, any day the books are opened; but no business is transacted at any other time.

The money so collected, is divided equally between the six trustees. For every additional hundred pounds, a new trustee is to be chosen; so that a trustee can only risk his proportion of £100. None but the labouring classes are admitted to this benefit; and there is no restriction as to place of residence.

### OBSERVATIONS.

These few simple rules are all that have hitherto been found necessary for the establishment of this charity, the design of which is both original and useful. To those who have applied themselves to that branch of political economy, which relates to increasing the comforts, and improving the morals of the inferior classes of society, it

must be obvious that every endeavour to encourage and enable them to provide for their own wants, rather than to rely upon the gratuitous gifts of the rich, are of great advantage to the whole community.

It is not sufficient to stimulate the poor to industry, unless they can be persuaded to adopt habits of frugality. This is evinced amongst many different kinds of artizans and labourers, who earn large wages, but do not in general possess any better resources in the day of calamity than those who do not gain above half as much money. The season of plenty should then provide for the season of want; and the gains of summer be laid by for the rigours of winter. But it must be obvious, how difficult it is for even the sober labourer to save up his money, when it is at hand to supply the wants that occur in his family;—for those of intemperate habits, ready money is a very strong temptation to the indulgence of those pernicious propensities.

Many would try to make a little hoard for sickness or old age, but they know not where to place it without danger or inconvenience. They do not understand how to put money in, or to take it out of the bank ; nor will it answer for small sums, either in point of trouble or of loss of time. The same causes frequently occasion thoughtless servants to spend all their wages in youth, and in consequence to pass their old age in a workhouse ; a sad reverse from the indulgence of a gentleman's family, to which they have been habituated. Many instances indeed have occurred that for want of a place of security for their money, the poor have lost their hard earned savings, by lending it to some artful or distressed person, who has persuaded them, it will be safe in his hands.

The success of the little Bank for children, connected with the Tottenham Female Benefit Club, mentioned in a former part of the Reports,\* encouraged the present

\* See Vol. III. No. 84.

design ; and it may be worth remarking, that the Bank was opened by an orphan girl of fourteen, who placed two pounds in it, which she had earned in very small sums, and saved in the Benefit Club.

*24th May, 1804.*

## No. CXVII.

*Extract from the Parochial Returns, lately made with regard to the state of education in Ireland. By THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.*

IN the course of the benevolent exertions which have been made at Dublin, by the association for “discountenancing vice, and “for promoting the knowledge and practice “of religion and virtue,” circular letters had been sent to their own members, requesting information upon the subject; and other letters have been since addressed to the Archbishops and Bishops, soliciting, through their interference, returns from the parochial clergy to queries, respecting not only the actual state of education in their several parishes, but also as to the impediments by which its progress is obstructed, and the means whereby they might be removed.



The object of these enquiries being to ascertain how far it may be expedient for the public to interfere in removing those impediments, and how far the suggestions or exertions of individuals can be usefully directed to an object at present so very important to the country.

Parochial returns have been made from 202 parishes;\* comprising about one fifth of the ecclesiastical benefices in Ireland; and containing details which while they may tend to gratify the reader, by shewing the great effects of some recent attempts, to enlighten and improve the Irish poor, will operate to incite him to action by pointing out *large districts where education is almost wholly neglected*, and will encourage exertion by the evidence which they afford, that

\* The Committee has received returns from forty-one parishes in the diocese of Armagh, from twenty-three parishes in that of Dromore, from eighteen in that of Kilmore, and from thirty-six parishes in the diocese of Clogher;—from the diocese of Downe, nineteen; of Limerick, eleven; of Elphin, four; of Ferns, twenty-eight; of Ossory, six; and of Cork, sixteen.

there do not at present exist in Ireland any considerable obstacles, and certainly no insuperable difficulties, either religious or political, to a general system of education for the Irish poor.

The evidence to be collected from these Returns is, that *above two-third parts* of the poor children in Ireland, of an age, capacity, and disposition, to be taught and prepared for civilized life, are *entirely* without instruction or the means of education;—that in certain parts of Ireland, anciently the most civilized and enlightened, the proportion of this moral and political evil is still greater; and that even in the very neighbourhood of some parishes, in which great and successful efforts have been recently made, for extending generally the benefits of virtuous and religious institution (such as New Ross, Whitechurch, and Carron) there do, at the present hour, exist parishes, which are, comparatively speaking, without any means of education whatever.

The impediments to the instruction of the Irish poor, as appears by these Returns, are *the want of habitable school houses*;—and (an obvious consequence) *the want of proper schoolmasters*. The instructors of youth, in those parts which supply them no certain income or habitation, form a peculiar species of *uncharactered itinerants*; who, in the winter barely subsist, by offering their services from house to house, and in summer, draw a scanty and precarious support, by wandering from parish to parish, and opening, during the summer season, in some ditch covered with heath and furze, a school, to which the wretched inhabitants send their naked starving children, to learn reading, writing, and accounts.

Of other impediments, the principal seems to originate in *the poverty of the parents*, which not only prevents them from contributing to the weekly expense of schooling, but disables them from supplying their children with clothing to attend the schools. *The want of proper books* is another difficulty,

prevailing to a degree, which we can form very little conception of in this country ; whole parishes being stated to be without a bible,\* or any other religious book, in the houses or in the schools of the poor ; their place being supplied by “ such romances “ and histories of profligate and daring adventures, as have been handed down from “ generation to generation, and must contribute to cherish an unsettled and irregular spirit, irreconcilable to the habits “ of order and industry.”

In a country long inveterated in religious prejudices, and recently convulsed by domestic hostilities, commencing in distinctions of sects, it is a most favourable circumstance to Christian charity, that there

\* This Return was prior to the great and laudable exertion made by the Dublin Association for distributing Bibles and Testaments among the poor of Ireland. In a note to the Introductory Letter to this Volume, the reader will find notice of the honourable and benevolent efforts, which the Association has made in that respect. One can only regret that the imperious magnitude of the call should be such, as to exceed even these efforts of religious benevolence.

are to be found in the returns of above 200 parishes, very few and imperfect traces of sectarianism producing impediments to education. In many parts the Roman Catholic priests offer co-operation ; and it appears, that the children of Papists\* attend the Protestant schools without objection, whenever education, not conversion, is the object. It also appears, that there are several Catholic schools, where Protestant children attend, and are instructed in the sacred Scriptures, and in the Catechism of the Church of England ; that the New Testament is now read in many of the Catholic schools, and that the opinion is expressed, even in the most ignorant † and bigoted parts of the western

\* While charity, kindness, and mutual concession between sects are recommended, it must not be omitted to caution against that particular species of *religious candour*, which originates in *indifference* to every religious concern ; and to adopt the observation in these Returns, that in our endeavours to promote harmony between sects, too much care cannot be exerted to prevent the sacrifice of the VITAL PRINCIPLES of religion itself.

† With respect to the Latin language, formerly so prevalent in the western parts of Ireland, the fact is too



district of Ireland, that “if proper Protestant masters were appointed, *and no works of controversy taught*, the children of Catholics would attend them.”

This is to be accounted for by circumstances which are repeatedly noticed in these Returns, viz.—that the Irish poor, *at the present time*, are extremely anxious that their children should have the benefit of instruction;—that a general system of education would be *now* received by the lower ranks with the warmest gratitude, and would produce the most beneficial effects;—that if land were granted for that purpose, many parishes would build houses for schoolmasters;—and that in the opinion of the oldest residents, *their wish for improvement never was so STRONG as at the present period*.

curious to be left unnoticed, that in the diocese of Limerick only one *Latin school* is returned: all the remaining vestiges of Roman literature being, it is stated, preserved by traditionary care, in the *wilder, and more mountainous parts* of the county of Kerry.

## OBSERVATIONS.

I shall first submit to the reader some Observations extracted from these Returns, and shall then take the liberty of subjoining a few remarks and suggestions of my own. —When we contemplate the great number of children of the Irish poor who are totally neglected in their education, it must be apparent that something is defective in point of true polity. It should seem that the kingdom is capable of educating her own children ; and that it must be, at all times, the first duty, as well as the wisest policy, of every state so to do. Much, it is to be acknowledged, has been done in Ireland, both by Government and by individuals ; but a general system of education and a radical improvement in the moral character of the lower orders in Ireland cannot be expected from the energy of the poor themselves, nor from the benevolence of individuals, nor yet from occasional and unconnected acts of government. It requires a general, an arranged, a powerful system of

measures ; calculated to conciliate the good will of all sects ; and (to quote their own words) “such as would satisfy our brethren  
“ of every other persuasion, that the object  
“ is, not to proselyte individuals who entertain sentiments different from our own,  
“ but to establish the conviction of those  
“ important truths, which are held in common by every description of Christians.”

It must, indeed, be evident to the most superficial observer, that the formation and execution of any plan for the desired and necessary melioration of the condition and character of the lower classes of the community in Ireland, will require a greater degree of strength, and more arrangement of system, than can ever be expected from any efforts, or even from any union or co-operation, of individuals in that country. It will not be less obvious, that such a plan will require a more continued and unbroken attention, and will occupy a greater portion of time in the detail, than can possibly be supplied by MINISTERS, who are already

fully engaged with the other momentous concerns of a great and extended empire.

Those who have had communication and correspondence with gentlemen who have been active in the late measures for the benefit of the Irish poor, must have been again and again gratified by the warm and earnest attention, that has been paid to this subject by Government, as well as by individuals. What has been doing by the Dublin Society,—by that for promoting the Comforts of the Poor,—by the Association for discountenancing Vice,—by the Fever Institutions,—in the Dublin House of Industry and Foundling Hospital,—at Cork, Waterford, Killaloe, New Ross, and other places, *are* certainly entitled to every degree of praise and commendation. But these institutions tend rather to shew what is practicable, to make part of the general system, and to supply the means and example of what is to be done. Measures must be adopted by Government for inciting and assisting in every part of Ireland, a

general spirit of improvement ; the objects of which may be classed under the three following heads :—

1st. The promotion of schools, generally and effectually extended to the children of *all the poor in Ireland*.—It may not be possible entirely to put out of the question the distinction of the sects, which are prevalent in that country : but, upon the authority of these Returns, I may be allowed to submit that *education*, not *conversion*, ought to be the object of these schools ; and that they should be made as contributory to industry and civilized happiness, and as acceptable and inviting to all denominations of Christians, as may be done with any degree of propriety and security.

2d. The providing of additional means and motives to domestic employment and domestic management in cottages ; so as not only to meliorate individual character, but also to increase the amount and benefit of national industry.—The poor in some parts of Ireland derive great advantage from their



spinning-wheels, and from the domestic occupation which they supply : but those benefits are not universally extended ; and it may be doubted whether they ever will be. In the 20th Report of the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor, the reader will find an account of the late introduction of the manufacture of *split straw* into this country, and of the effects which it has produced in some of our parishes. It will appear from that, and from the Paper in the Appendix, that no difficulty or expense would attend the introduction of it into the cottages in Ireland ; and that it would afford the means of employing and educating a large proportion of those children, that are at present unprovided for. The raw material is very cheap, the work is easily learnt, and requires very little exertion, at the same time that it is friendly to *personal cleanliness* and to domestic habits.

gd. The general extension of fever institutions, of the vaccine inoculation, and of other charities for preserving the poor from

the ravages of infectious disorders, and the conducting of them *so as to produce a favourable impression on the minds of the poor*, and to increase the communication between them and the rich ; and thereby to accustom the lower ranks of society to look up to the higher orders for acts of kindness and assistance, would be well deserving of all the labour that must be expended on it.

Tho Ireland has the advantage of being unincumbered with our system of poor laws, and tho the Irish have a degree of activity and fervour of mind which we are not so fortunate as to possess in England, yet it must be repeated, that there are many circumstances, which render it impossible that the great and necessary improvement in the condition of the poor in Ireland, should be produced merely by *individual* exertion and co-operation. It is, however, essential that the efforts of individuals should go hand in hand with any measures of Government ; and that in the arrangement of those measures, not merely opinions, but

even wishes and prejudices, should be consulted ; so as to conciliate the co-operation of as many persons, of all sects and orders, as may be practicable. Without it, the best directed acts of Government will be incompetent to their object ; and with it, *effectually obtained*, there will be little required but arrangement and direction of general plans, and occasional aid thrown in, as *seed*, to be abundantly repaid by productive industry and by melioration of character : for it would afford evidence that the measures were defective, if they had not the operation of increasing the exertions of individuals in Ireland, and of diminishing gradually and sensibly the calls on the public fund for aid and support.

The proposal, therefore, for the consideration of those to whom alone it can be addressed, is, that a Board be established, the members of which shall be selected from those IRISH PRIVY COUNSELLORS, who, by the official situations which they hold or have held in Ireland, have acquired

information as to the internal situation and circumstances of the country :—the office of the Board to be open to proposals, suggestions, and communications, from every part of Ireland ; upon which reports should be made to Government, from time to time, as circumstances might require..

Instead of apprehending that private charities might be checked by such an establishment, one may venture to express a confidence, and that founded on experience, that the efforts and exertions of the landowners and gentlemen would be thereby increased and encouraged, in every part of Ireland ; when they saw a Board, so established and sanctioned by Government, *expressly to pay attention to and assist their endeavours to meliorate the character and condition of their tenants and neighbours*. At present the difficulty is great, because the appearance is formidable. No one, however, doubts the expediency of improvements, in the morals and industry of the country, where they have property or are resident.

And be it remembered, where labour is made easy and pleasurable, and examples of success are frequent, exertion and co-operation will never be wanting in the cause of humanity.

Tho the preparing and arranging of plans for the improvement of the Irish poor will require some degree of steady and continued attention on the part of one or two of the Committee, yet the attendance of the other members may be on the same footing as that of the Board of Agriculture, or of the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor. The situation may be made honourable and respectable, and the labour chiefly confined to the first proceedings and arrangements, the duty being to advise and report, but not to decide and carry into execution. It would therefore be perfectly unnecessary that there should be any salary for any of the members of the Board ; and the expence of the whole establishment might be so trifling as not to exceed £500. a year.



The present moment does not indeed, at first view, appear to be open to new projects, and new suggestions of civil improvements. It will appear, however, that there are circumstances peculiarly favourable to a measure of this kind at present. The *necessity* of some melioration of character and condition in the poor of Ireland, is become so pressing and imperious, as to be felt by every one. A crisis of public danger and calamity has been always found to soften, prepare, and awaken the human mind, and to produce the most favourable disposition for improvement, exertion, and co-operation ;—and, at the present moment, the personal characters of all the leading men in Ireland as well as in England, are such, as to offer great advantages in the commencement of so arduous and important an undertaking.

4th June, 1804.

## No CXVIII.

*Extract from an Account of a School in the  
Borough Road. By JOHN WALKER, Esq.*

IN 1798 Mr. Joseph Lancaster opened a school in the Borough Road, Southwark, for the instruction of 100 children of mechanics in reading, writing, and arithmetic. It is now attended by 500 scholars, and preparations are making for 200 more. Only 30 are children of persons in a more independent situation. The peculiar modes of instructing the children, of exciting emulation by rewards, and of preserving order by division of attention, are such as merit a more detailed account than the plan of the Reports admits. This detail, however, the reader will find in a publication of Mr. Lancaster's, intitled, "Improvements in Education,\* as it respects the industrious "Classes of the Community."

\* Sold by Hatchard, Piccadilly; also by Darton and Harvey, Gracechurch-street, and J. Matthews, Strand.

In order to produce a stimulus to exertion, the master provided about 200 leather tickets, gilt and lettered, according to relative degrees of merit. The value of these tickets vary, from No. 1, which must be obtained six times to entitle the bearer to a halfpenny prize; to No. 6, which gained forty times gives a shilling prize. The prizes consist of bats, balls, kites, and the like. Besides this, there are in the schools honorary orders of merit, worn by the pupils until forfeited by misbehaviour; the forfeiture being in lieu of corporal or other punishment.

The system of tuition is almost entirely conducted by the boys; the writing books are ruled with exactness, and all the writers supplied with good pens by the same means. In the first instance, the school is divided into classes, to each of these a lad is appointed as monitor. He is responsible for the morals, improvement, good order, and cleanliness of the whole class, and it is his duty to make a daily, weekly, and monthly

report of progress, specifying the number of lessons, of boys present, absentees, &c. &c.

As the boys who are acting as teachers are expected to leave the school as soon as their education is completed, they are instructed to train other lads as assistants who may supply their places, and in the mean time may leave them more leisure to improve in other branches of learning.

The office of monitor is at once honourable and productive of emolument. There are besides other lucrative offices of trust. The monitor delivers out the gilt and lettered tickets, a second the tickets of merit, another has the general charge as to cleanliness, &c. and a fourth has the care of the 500 slates. Thus every duty has its respective officer, and the fidelity and assiduity displayed in their discharge is surprising. This system of tuition is mutually for the advantage of the lads who teach, and of those who are taught. If a lad in one class becomes qualified for removal to a higher, he receives

an appropriate reward, and his monitor also a similar one. The same regulation takes place in arithmetic on going into a new rule. The advantage derived from entering the daily reports of progress made by each class is considerable; it obliges the monitors to go straight forward, without wandering from one lesson to another; and it affords, by inspection, a true account of the lessons, &c. performed by every boy, and also a view of the general progress of the whole school.

The method of spelling is among the most useful of their improvements. It commands attention, gratifies the active disposition of youth, and is an excellent introduction to writing. It supersedes, in a great measure, the use of books, while it greatly increases the improvement of the scholars. It is as follows:—Twenty boys are supplied with slates and pencils, and a word pronounced for them to write. They are obliged to listen with attention to catch the sound of every letter, and have to connect this with



the idea of each letter, and the pronunciation of the word, as they write it on their slates. Now these twenty boys at a common school would each have had a book, and one at a time would have been reading or spelling to their teacher, while the other nineteen were looking at their books, or perhaps entirely idle. On the contrary, when they have slates, one boy may read to the teacher, while the other nineteen are spelling words on the slate. The class by these means will spell, write, and read at the same instant of time. In addition to this, the trouble which teaches twenty will suffice to teach 60 or 100, by employing some of the senior boys to inspect the slates of the others, they not omitting to spell the words themselves, and on a signal given by them to the principal teacher, that the word is finished by all the boys they overlook, he is informed when to dictate another to the class.—By an experiment recently made, it was found, that the word THANK was written by 296 boys, and the examination made by the

master and monitors, in the space of one minute; and the word *ALCORAN* in two minutes and a half. Near twenty of the boys who wrote these words could scarcely form a letter ten days before.

The following method has been adopted with success in teaching arithmetic. The cypherers are in distinct classes; the monitor of the class having a written book of sums which the scholars of his class are to do, and another written book containing a key to those sums. In the first place, when the boys of his class are seated, he takes the book of sums, suppose the first sum in Addition to be as follows:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{lbs.} \\
 5432 \\
 4567 \\
 5432 \\
 4567 \\
 5432 \\
 2222 \\
 \hline
 27652
 \end{array}$$

He repeats audibly the figures 5432, and each boy in the class writes them; they are then inspected, and if done correct, he dictates next the figures 4567, which are written and inspected in like manner, and thus he proceeds till every boy in the class has the sum finished on his slate. He then takes the key, and reads as follows: first column, 2 and 2 are 4, and 7 are 11, and 2 are 13, and 7 are 20, and 2 are 22. Set down 2 under the 2, and carry 2 to the next. The above sum was, a short time since, written by 116 boys and inspected by their monitors in twenty minutes: many of them had finished in fourteen minutes. The whole of a sum is written in this manner, and read by each boy in the class; it is afterwards inspected by the monitor, and frequently by the master; and it is a method peculiarly well adapted to facilitate the progress of the scholars in the elementary parts of arithmetic.

Multiplication is easily attained in the same way; and the scholars by writing

acquire a thorough knowledge of numeration, expressed both in words and figures, without paying any attention to it, as a separate rule. The boys vie with each other in writing their sums neatly on the slate, and their improvement in writing becomes greatly increased. Another great and important advantage derived from this plan, is the certainty to the teacher, that every boy in the class is employed, and that none sit idle while others are waiting the master's partial instructions; and three times the usual number of sums are done and repeated by every boy, while no inconsiderable degree of competition is excited.

The new method of spelling already described only applies to those who can write; but in all large day-schools there are many children who have not acquired this art, and who are sent to school solely to learn to read. To obviate this difficulty the following plan, nearly similar to that which has been successfully practised by Dr. Bell,

in the Male Asylum at Madras, and mentioned in the account of the schools at Kendal,\* has been adopted. The scholars have a desk before them, with ledges on every side, and it is filled with sand to a level with these ledges. Every boy is furnished with a sharp-pointed wire to write, or rather to print with. A word is then dictated by the monitor, for instance BEER, and it is immediately sketched in the sand by every boy with the point of his skewer, and when inspected by the monitor another word is dictated. It possesses part of the advantages before described, to be attached to spelling on the slate. This class of children lose more than two-thirds of their time, when taught in the usual method.

### OBSERVATIONS.

The importance of moral and religious instruction is too evident to admit of a

\* See the Reports of the Society, No. 90.



question. To promote it in a manner the most economical, to augment the happiness of the scholars, and to induce them to make the most beneficial use of their time, are objects highly deserving of consideration. When a general system of education is become so very desirable, and is so much desired, it is therefore no small merit for Mr. Lancaster to have introduced a method, which to the economy of time and attention, adds a very great pecuniary saving. The expense of his school, including books, rewards, slates, &c. does not amount to 7*s.* 6*d.* a year for each pupil. In the usual mode of teaching sixty boys, they would require sixty slates, sixty spelling books, and thirty bibles. In Mr. Lancaster's school, the same number of boys have only two bibles, three spelling books, and sixty slates; being a saving of £6. 7*s.* 9*d.* or above four-fifths of that part of the expense.

*4th June, 1804.*

## No. CXIX.

*Extract from an account\* of the House of  
Refuge at Dublin. By the Reverend Dr.  
GUINNESS.*

THE House of Refuge at Dublin was established on the 1st of February 1802, for the relief of young women under twenty years of age, who have been brought up in, and apprenticed from, the different charity schools in the county and city of Dublin and the adjacent counties, and may from casualties and other causes, unconnected with any misconduct of their own, be deprived of the means of employment or protection. Such objects have a decided preference, so that no person can be admitted to the exclusion of a claimant so circumstanced; but when all applicants of this description have been received, the protection of the house is extended to other

\* This Paper, and that No. XIV. in the Appendix, have been sent to the Society by the Ladies Committee.

destitute females under the age of twenty, who are either orphans, or whose parents are so circumstanced, as not to be able to afford them even a temporary shelter from vice and misery. No young woman can be received into this house, whatever may be her claims on compassion, until the cause of her having left her last place has been carefully investigated, and the most unquestionable proof of her modesty, honesty, and sobriety, in every situation wherein she may have been previously placed, has been produced. If their character can bear the test of such an enquiry, they here find a shelter from poverty and vice, from all the calamities and dangers to which their youth, sex, and dereliction necessarily expose them, until suitable places can be provided for them ; and (besides clothing\* on their first reception, when necessary) are supplied with lodging, employment, fire, together with a pint of milk daily, and a stone of potatoes

\* The poor girls generally come into the house with their cloaths all in rags or in pledge ; they cannot be suffered to appear in the house, or to go to church, without decent covering ; nor will any one hire them in rags.

and a quarter of a pound of soap weekly, to each girl; and each individual receives the whole produce of her own industry.

The governesses meet at the house on the first day of every month, at eleven o'clock, to enquire into the conduct of the young women, to comptroll accounts, receive and decide on claims for admission,\* and make such regulations as may be found necessary.

The house is under the care of a matron, at a salary of 20 guineas per annum. She keeps an accurate register of the conduct of each girl, while in the house, and can give correct information to such as may enquire into their character.

Some of the young women have been

\* From the opening of the house on the 1st Feb. to the 1st Dec. 1802, thirty-one young women were received; of whom fifteen were provided with respectable places, two dismissed for ungovernable temper and contempt of order, three taken out by their friends, and eleven then remained in the house.

obliged to leave their places to which they have been recommended, for want of abilities adequate to their station. Such have been re-admitted, on bringing proper certificates of their good behaviour, and have afterwards proved acceptable servants, in places equally eligible to themselves, and better adapted to their degree of capacity. They are daily visited by some of the governesses, who take an interest in their welfare, superintend their instruction, and feel a lively and sensible pleasure in marking the progress of amendment in their appearance and circumstances. Perhaps at no period of life may improvement be more reasonably expected to be rapid, or the effects of it more lasting, than from 15 to 20 years of age, the period of admission; particularly when the hand of adversity has been already felt, and has softened their minds into a just sense of the value of judicious tenderness, and of the benefits of solid instruction.



## OBSERVATIONS.

The institution of this asylum may justly be considered as one of the genuine fruits of that progress in the science of benevolence, which it was the object of the founders of the London “ Society for bettering “ the Condition of the Poor” to promote. The first effort of charity is to relieve actual misery, under the mere impulse of compassion, without any accurate discrimination in the choice of objects, or in the mode of administering relief. A very little experience and reflection will point out the manifold inconveniences of persisting in such a course ; and mercy is found to be abortive, unless it be tempered and guided by wisdom. In the progress of enquiry to which these considerations necessarily lead, it will be soon discovered, that it is often easier to prevent, than to cure evils ; and that the advantages attending well-directed efforts to remove the causes of misery, are unmixed with the inconveniences that frequently accompany its relief. The attention

will then be directed to investigate the sources of calamity, and to diminish those from which vice and wretchedness make their inroads upon society.

In the class of institutions preventive of misery, the House of Refuge claims a place in the foremost rank. There are several hundred female children, from the age of 14 to 16, out of the several charitable institutions in the city and neighbourhood of Dublin, annually apprenticed either as servants in families in middling circumstances, or to a trade. In such a number of children, so disposed of, it is not surprising that, by casualties, or by the misfortunes or misconduct of the persons to whom they are intrusted, some of these children should, every year, be deprived of the means provided for their support. Under such circumstances, there exists hardly any class of human beings so destitute of resource, or so helplessly exposed to the temptations of vice, and to the arts of designing villainy. The places they

occupied in the institution in which they were educated, have been filled by other objects ; and even if this were not the case, much previous enquiry would be necessary, before young women could with propriety be re-admitted into seminaries, adapted to the education of mere children. Shut out, therefore, from the asylum in which they were reared, not having relations or friends of any description, their situation seems to be perfectly hopeless, without the aid of such an establishment as this ; which is so regulated as to furnish no temptation to idleness or caprice, and to be inaccessible to all but the most meritorious claimants.

*22d May 1804.*

## No. CXX.

*Extract from an account of the Mortlake  
Friendly Society for Women. By the Rev.  
JOHN COLLINSON, A. M.*

IN August 1802, there was formed, at Mortlake in the county of Surry, a benefit society for Women; consisting of *benefit-members*, who are the objects of relief; and of *honorary members*, who receive no benefit themselves, but have the direction of the society, and the power of recommending one benefit member for each half guinea annually subscribed, or for every donation of seven guineas in one sum. These pay their year's subscription in advance, and also four shillings for admission fees. The number of benefit members is limited, according to the amount of the funds, so as not only to give permanency to the society, but to allow of a considerable increase of benefit to the poor members.

The payment of each benefit member, besides two shillings and sixpence on admission, and threepence for a copy of the Rules and Orders, was, until June last, eightpence a month if under forty-two years of age, and one shilling a month if between that and the age of fifty-two years. It is now fixed for all members admitted since the new regulation, at one shilling a month. No woman is admissible as a benefit member, if above fifty-two years of age, or in a state of bad health, or of ill fame, or being member of any other benefit society: and if any member be criminally convicted, or shall have been guilty of gross misconduct, she is to be excluded by order of the committee, and her vacancy filled up by the honorary member who recommended her.

Out of the contributions three funds have been established;—the first, a *sick fund*; for the assistance of benefit members in sickness and lying-in, and for funerals; and also for defraying the general expenses of the society. To this fund are paid all the monthly sub-



scriptions of the benefit members ; to this the sum of five shillings is annually added from the payment of each honorary member. The allowance in sickness or casualty is six shillings a week for one year, if confined to the bed ; and for *walking allowance*, three shillings a week for a year more, or longer if the committee think proper. In lying-in, they are allowed five shillings per week for a month ; and two shillings and sixpence per week after, if the visitor sees cause for the continuance of it. These allowances do not take place, until after they have made good their payments one year : the allowance, in case of funerals, is not granted until after two years. The sum allowed in that case, is two guineas ; but it is allowed on condition that the whole expense of the funeral has not exceeded three pounds.

The second is an *accumulating fund* ; the annual interest of which is to be divided equally, not exceeding ten shillings a week each, among such benefit members as may be above the age of sixty-five. After that

time they no longer contribute to, nor receive benefit from, the *sick fund*. Three shillings and sixpence a year paid from each honorary member's subscription, together with the fines and forfeits of the society, and the fees upon admission, aided by the contingent chance of legacies and donations, constitute the support of this fund.

The third is called the *private fund*. This is supplied from the remaining part of each honorary member's subscription; and is applicable at the discretion of the honorary members, and as a matter of favour and charity, either for the relief of any extreme case, not within the provision of the other funds; or for the encouragement and reward of such of the benefit members as shall distinguish themselves by virtue, industry, ingenuity, faithfulness, long continuance in service; or by any other good quality, which is interesting and useful to the public.

The manner in which these three funds are made *subsidiary* to each other, is curious,

and deserving of observation.—Whenever the balance of the *sick fund* shall exceed the amount of £100. sterling, the surplus is to be added to the *accumulating fund*: and so, whenever the *private fund* shall exceed £10. sterling, the surplus is to be added to the *sick fund*. On the other hand, whenever the annual interest of the *accumulating fund* shall exceed ten shillings a week for each annuitant, the overplus of interest is to be added to the principal of that fund; except in one case,—that of the *sick fund* being then less than £100. sterling, when the surplus income of the *accumulating fund* is to be carried to the *sick fund*.

The government of the society is vested in a committee, composed of those LADIES, who are *honorary members*. This committee has the power of appointing visitors from their own board, of receiving those visitors' reports, of passing the accounts, drawing on the treasurer, expelling for misconduct, and making occasional regulations conformable to the general rules and principles of the society.—

The three lady visitors, are under the general control of the committee ; and each of them selects a benefit member, for her assistant. They visit the sick members, either in person, or by the assistant, supply relief, and make their quarterly report to the ladies' committee.

The *gentlemen*, who are honorary members, are all of the assistant committee. It is their duty to elect three trustees of the funds, out of their own members ; to appoint the treasurer, surgeon, and clerk ; and to superintend the accounts, and the preparation of the statement of them for the annual meeting.—In case, by death of an honorary member, or otherwise, the number of benefit members shall at any time exceed that of the honorary members, in a greater proportion than that of seven to five, no fresh nomination can be made, until the number of benefit members be reduced within the abovementioned proportion.

In June 1804, there were 55 honorary members, and 44 benefit members. The

total of receipts, from August 1802 to June 1804, amounted to £298. 10s. 3d.; whereof (after £30. 7s. 9d. already applied) £82. 9s. remains in the *sick fund*, £175. 13s. 6d. in the *accumulating fund*, and £10. in the *private fund*. Twenty-five benefit members have received relief in the preceeding year; 15 in sickness, and 10 in childbed.

### OBSERVATIONS.

In contemplating the principle upon which this society is formed, we may discover inducement to prudence, surety for conduct, and conciliation by kindness. Prudence is excited by the power of investing their monthly savings, with advantage and security; so as to receive not only the benefit of survivorship, but to have that benefit doubled by the favour and contribution of the honorary members. Good conduct is enforced by the forfeiture, to which vice and irregularity will subject them; and by which they may be deprived of a certain and de-



sirable provision for childbed, sickness, and old age. And I need not add that mutual conciliation, and Christian charity, are best promoted, as in this instance, by the intercourse of kindness, between the poor and the rich, and by every essential benefit that the former can derive from the latter.

The advantages of the poor, who have been favoured by admission into this society, are of the most important kind. Exclusive of the general consideration of encouragement to industry, to prudence, virtue, and good habits, the constitution of this society holds out great advantages to the members, by the contribution of the honorary members and by the proportion to be always observed between the number of *benefited* and of *honorary* members, which could never have been afforded, or secured to them, without that provision. By the *sick fund*, a limited degree of relief is prepared for cases of urgent and unprovided distress. But by the *accumulating fund*, the principal of which can never be touched, there is supplied a sure

and liberal provision for all the members in the decline of life. It will appear by calculation, that if the funds of the society continue, from various favourable causes, to increase at the same rate as they have hitherto done, the *accumulating fund* will amount to 1500*l.* before there can be any claimant, for even a part of the interest ; the earliest possible commencement of any of the annuities being in 13 years from August 1802.

One may conceive, but it will not be easy to describe, the pleasure and gratitude of these fortunate women, on their perusing the annual report of the Society ; when they shall perceive, in the progressive increase of this fund, an *assured and honourable support* provided for them, under the infirmities and sufferings of age ; while from the sick and private funds they are, in present, deriving comfort and assistance, far beyond the utmost extent of their contributions ; thus enjoying, under the same well arranged charity, present relief and future hope.

Mr. Harris, to whom the public is indebted for the formation of the Mortlake Friendly Society, has so framed its regulations, that a due proportion of honorary members is essential to the admission of benefit members. By these means a certain permanency and augmentation of the *sick fund* \* is not only insured, but a constant accession is daily making to the capital of the *accumulating fund*; and a comfortable independance is provided for aged females in Mortlake, on this condition only, that they will earn it by the attention † and good conduct of their preceding life. Thus is a large and perpetual

\* If at any time it should occur, as it has in some other friendly societies, that the *sick fund* may be inadequate to the claims on it, it may be observed that the benefit of provision for old age under the *accumulating fund*, is so important an advantage, that even if there were a doubt whether the sick fund might always be sufficient, which from the late establishment of the society cannot yet be ascertained by experience, yet the benefit which these poor women would receive, would be very great and desirable.

† The folly of idle and frivolous expense in funerals, a folly which generally prevails most, when there is the least provision for it, is repressed, by the condition, which limits to the sum of 3*l.* the expense of any funeral, to which contribution is to be made by the society.

fund established, for the encouragement and reward of female industry and prudence, in the parish of Mortlake.

Some objection will perhaps occur to the *equality* of terms, on which different ages, under 52, are now admitted. But of this advantage given to the aged, we shall be persuaded that the younger have no cause to complain, when we consider—that in every female society of this kind, they must be the chief objects of the provision for childbed, the most frequent and onerous of the present claims upon the fund ;—that they may, from their period of life, look to a large increase of the *accumulating fund*, for their benefit in old age ;—and lastly, that the great advantages, which they at present receive are derived from the contributions of the honorary members ; and are not only greater than are afforded in other societies, but do far exceed any thing which they could even hope to obtain, without a proportional contribution from honorary members.

7th Dec. 1804.

## No. CXXI.

*Extract from an account of a School near Hawkstone, in the County of Salop. By THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.*

**N**EAR the high road to Whitchurch, in the county of Salop, on a dry and healthy spot within two miles of Hawkstone, the seat of Sir Richard Hill, there was opened on the 6th of Nov. 1799, a school for ten boys and thirty girls. The edifice was erected at an expense of about £.230 and it has received the honourable and appropriate name of **INDUSTRY HALL**. The land round it has been recently inclosed; and about half an acre appropriated as a garden to the school.

The price of schooling in that neighbourhood, tho moderate, does not in general come within the means of labouring men. Their weekly earnings are barely sufficient to maintain themselves and their families. While so



large a portion is required for the mere necessities of life, it may be supposed that little or nothing can be afforded for the purposes of education. Besides this, there is no peculiar employment in that vicinage for poor children; and in consequence they have been permitted to run about all day, contracting habits of idleness; and what is worse, acquiring habits of vice and profaneness, not only from one another, but also from those, whose duty it was to have set them a better example.

The parish is extensive; and the parish church is, of course, at a considerable distance from many of the parishioners. Several, who might be able to attend, are too frequently, from motives of convenience, absent from divine service; whilst others, who have children or relatives to nurse, or are themselves labouring under sickness or infirmity, are compelled to stay at home; and are thereby deprived of that spiritual instruction, which is essential, not only to the duties of religion, but to the practice of virtue.

The scholars are taught reading, and work of various kinds ; so as either to enable them to obtain their livelihood as mechanics, or to fit them for good and useful servants. No child is admitted under the age of five, or above that of ten years of age ; nor for less than three, or for more than five years. The school hours in summer are from eight to eleven, and from one to five ; the children being summoned by a bell, which rings first a quarter of an hour before, and again five minutes before, the time appointed for school.

The small, but certain reward of a *half-penny a week* is paid to every child, who behaves orderly and regularly ; but lying, stealing, quarrelling, fighting, disorderly behaviour, and irregular attendance, exclude from the reward. To those, who have continued three years in the school, a new Bible and Prayer-book are presented on their quitting it. Two months holidays are allowed ; a fortnight at Christmas, a week at Easter, a week at Whitsuntide, and a month at harvest. Besides this, they are allowed two days

at the time of setting, and two at the time of gathering potatoes, and (besides sickness) one day is allowed them a fortnight, if wanted by their parents, and notified to their mistress.

Two mistresses are appointed for the school; Mary Bradshaw, who lives with her father and mother at the house, and takes care of the establishment, of the observance of the rules, and the employment of the children. Her days of duty are Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, when the children are employed in work. The other mistress, Hannah Blantarn, has a family of her own near the school, and attends on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, to instruct the children in reading and the catechism. Both of the mistresses are enjoined to treat the children tenderly; and not to use the rod, except in cases of necessity. But, in order to reconcile their young minds *to flogging, when necessary*, several sayings of King Solomon are put in a conspicuous part of the schools, and read once a quarter; so as to attract their attention and shew them the advantage of their being

whipt.—As these may be of use to the reader, they are added in a note.\*

It is pleasing to remark, that these good counsels have had their due effect; and that, tho severity is now scarcely ever used in the school, the children, at first rude and undisciplined, are become generally tractable and orderly. The principal work in which they have been hitherto instructed, has been the manufacture of wool, which is brought to the school in the fleece; when it is picked by one set, carded by another, spun by a third, and at last knitted into stockings. Each child has an allowance for its work; which tho trifling, produces habits of skill, and may

\* He that spareth the rod, hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes. Prov. 13, v. 14.—Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying. Prov. 19, v. 19.—Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him. Prov. 22, v. 15.—Withhold not correction from the child; for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Prov. 23, v. 13, 14.—The rod and reproof give wisdom; but a child left to himself, bringeth his mother to shame.—Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea he shall give delight unto thy soul. Prov. 29, v. 15, 17.

prove the source of wealth hereafter. It is surprising to see with what dexterity some of them handle their needles, and how well the work is performed. The manufacture, tho coarse, is warm, soft, and strong; and has met with considerable encouragement, so as to promise some return for the money expended. A quantity has been lately sent for sale to Mr. Windsor, Haberdasher at Weston, near Hawkstone Inn. He has also for sale, some hearth rugs, and shoes of cloth or matting, lined with wool, sometimes called *carriage comforts*; being very convenient for winter journeys. These articles have been made by Mary Bradshaw, one of the mistresses, and such of the girls as she has instructed in the work.

On Monday is the weekly examination. The children are then catechised, and the rewards distributed. The names of the scholars are entered on a slate, with a mark for every absence or other fault. From thence they are entered in the *black book*; which is referred to at the annual festival,



or *big day*, as the children call it; when deductions are made, out of their claims for good behaviour and regular attendance, according to the number of marks inserted against each boy's name.

The annual festival is on the first of July; when the children, and their mothers, are entertained with tea and rolls. The distribution of the rewards immediately succeeds the entertainment; and as the prizes are judged by strangers, no partiality can be apprehended.—The benevolent founder of this school has given his friends and the public the pleasure of contributing to these rewards. A box is placed at Hawkstone Inn, and another at Industry Hall, to receive contributions. The produce of these donations for four years back (including some extra profits from work) amounts, on the average, to ten guineas a year; a sum which, by rewards judiciously selected and divided, has annually distinguished twelve claimants of superior merit, has given some assistance to the children going into service,

and has afforded a proportion of encouragement to the industry and attention of all the other children.

### OBSERVATIONS.

It is possible for scepticism sometimes to prevail, in checking our attempts to reform the *present generation*. It may be said, that there are cases in which habits become inveterately fixed, and amendment is almost hopeless. But this will not apply to education.—If schools like those, which the well-directed benevolence of SIR RICHARD HILL has founded at Hawkstone, were to be established in the vicinage of every other gentleman's seat in England, no doubt could be entertained, but that the rising generation would be improved and meliorated. If we could suppose that this system were continued for only a few years, the least we could expect, would be a new and renovated order of beings, accustomed to decency, regularity, and cleanliness,—

habituated to industry, attention, and prudence,—and instructed in the principles of religion, and in the exercise of virtuous industry. It is impossible to deny that the rising generation would be improved by such a system. Such an assertion is beyond the power of argument. But it may also be averred,—and we may refer to some examples of recent and reiterated experience,—that the benefit will not rest there. The virtue of the child will frequently influence the conduct of the parent ; and in instances, where the general and unapproximated hopes and fears of religion have been denounced in vain, the near and interesting example of a *pious, virtuous, and thriving child*, may gradually lead the repentant parent to the source of all religious consolation, and to the practice of every moral virtue.

29th Nov. 1804.

## No. CXXII.

*Extract from an Account of a Provision lately made for employment of poor Females in the Island of Tortola. By THOMAS BERNARD, Esq.*

IN the Island of Tortola, in the West Indies, there had been of late, from some circumstances, a very considerable increase of the indigent and distressed. For the last three years they have been deprived of all kind of public support; and their single resource has been from occasional donations, springing from the casual and uncertain flow of private charity. With a view to their relief, a lady, who had lately arrived from England, made an experiment in May, 1804, which has succeeded beyond expectation.

She began by selecting twelve of the most distressed females in the island; chiefly

widows, or their children. Having assembled them, she said that she had laid out the sum of £20. \* in the purchase of coarse linen. With this she was ready to employ them, in making up sailors' frocks, trowsers, and coarse wearing apparel, and to pay them the customary price allowed, for such articles of work.

They readily embraced the offer, and they continued actively employed for a month. The articles were in the mean time sold to seamen, almost as fast as they could be made. The result of the month's account of labour and profit was, that, after deducting £20. the original cost of the coarse linen that had been purchased, and paying these twelve women for their work the sum of £13. according to the usual price, there remained in the lady's hands, a clear profit of £21. 17s. 6d.—As an encouragement, this amount of profit has been divided among them according to their industry; so that on an advance of £20. for a month, these

\* Of the island currency, about £11. sterling.



distressed objects have received a benefit of £34. 17s. 9d. after re-payment of the principal.

The cloth was purchased at public auction, and the articles were sold at 15 per cent. under the usual price. The low price at which the materials were purchased, increased the amount of profit in the first month; but if they had been bought at the common price in the shops, still the object of employment would have been obtained, tho the profit would have been less. The balance of profit has been proved by the experience of the four succeeding months; upon which, tho there has not been an equal proportion of advantage, yet the foundress has had the satisfaction of perceiving, that these poor women received £33. 4s. 6d. for their work, and that the profit was £39. 6s. 3d. The stock and money in hand, on the 9th of last October, amounted to £61. 3s. 9d.; of which it was proposed, on the 25th of October, the day of His Majesty's accession, to divide £21. 3s. 9d. in small sums, among

the most deserving of the poor, and to reserve £40. as a fund for continuing the charity on an increased scale.

### OBSERVATIONS.

I have the more pleasure in making this extract, because it is an account of what has been done by the lady of a very active member of the Society,—the gentleman to whom the English poor are greatly indebted for a recent and considerable accession to their sources of domestic employment.

The same advantageous purchase of materials, and the same certain and beneficial market for the articles made, cannot be expected in all cases. But in many instances, if attention and desire are not wanting, such opportunities and advantages will occur, as would have wholly escaped the notice of the listless and inattentive. It is possible that upon enquiry it might be found, that the supply of articles of clothing for our

navy would, under the care and protection of the natural guardians of their own sex, furnish employment for all the distressed females in the metropolis and its vicinage; while our seaports would afford the like relief to their own female poor. The material for this work is cheap, the process simple, and the market extensive.

A calculation \* formed, upon what is here stated to have been done with the sum of £11. in the island of Tortola, will probably be fallacious. The effect of skill and the competition of labour, in many trades, are such as to exclude, in a great degree, deductions drawn from what has happened in other places. If any one, however, is curious to know what would be done with £1100.

\* The market, tho more extensive, would be less certain; but the great difficulty would arise from the unaccountable competition of *cheapness* of the wholesale undertakers of this work in London. They can execute the work at a rate, which the most intelligent persons in Westminster cannot account for. It does not however appear, that the price is so low, as to exclude such a system of female employment, as that which is recommended in this Report.

so applied for twelve months, and with *exactly the same success* as attended the first months employment of this sum of £11. in Tortola, he will find the result as follows ;—that there would be 1200 poor females employed for a year ;—the wages received by them £8400.—and the profits resulting to the employers, as a fund for charity, £15,000.

Without meaning to state this as any thing more, than a collateral evidence of the advantageous disposition, which had been made of this fund of charity at Tortola, I will proceed to consider, in the event of any such plan being attempted in a large scale in this country, what would be the difficulties, which it might have to encounter.—These would be, 1st. The want of capital, and of a ready sale for the goods ; 2d. The uncertainty of a permanent market, and the trouble of management ; and, 3d. The variation of profit, and the extent of risk.—Upon each of these I will make a few remarks, before I conclude.

When the plan is well digested,—and well understood,—I shall apprehend no difficulty in obtaining the *petty capital* of £1100. or even a much greater sum. They who beheld, in the year 1800, a subscription of £4000. raised in a few days, as a prevention against the sufferings of the poor, and who have since witnessed the *donation* of much larger sums for objects far less interesting than that which is the subject of this paper, will have very little doubt of a *loan* like this, being speedily supplied, for the support and improvement of our female poor.—As to *market*, if a more advantageous sale should not offer at home, those of the slop shops can hardly fail; and the supply of the exportation trade to the East and the West Indies, will always afford a regular demand.—Of the *permanent continuance* of this market no one can entertain a doubt, when he considers how indispensable a part of our political frame, the British Navy is now become, and how essential its continuance and increase must ever be to the existence



of our country.—As to *trouble*, there will be little, but to *discover* a proper person to direct the work. When such a person is permanently engaged, the labour will be comparatively trifling: and, that there are many individuals fitted for the situation, no one will doubt.

With respect to *profit*, if such an establishment produced little more than sufficient to pay its expenses, or even if it would not quite defray those expenses, but there was a loss on the adventure,—still we may venture to assert, that IT IS BETTER TO LOSE A LITTLE BY THE INDUSTRY OF THE POOR, THAN MUCH BY THEIR IDLENESS.

The extent of *risk* remains to be considered.—The responsibility of those who advance sums of £50. each, to be repaid them with no other advantage except legal interest, is easily ascertained. They may have lent upon an insufficient security; but their danger can extend no further than to the loss of their

principal of £50. For those who conduct the business, I will not presume to say, but that they may *possibly, and by extreme imprudence*, so far implicate themselves, as even to become *personally* liable for a possible deficiency. But I will venture to affirm, that this cannot happen with *common prudence and common attention*. The worst event may be, that acting at the request of the contributors, the funds, or part of them, may be exhausted in the attempt. The result of the measure might then be stated thus:—the ladies who had directed the execution of the plan might report;——“ We have  
“ endeavoured to execute the plan which  
“ was formed for employing the poor of  
“ our own sex in London;——We have  
“ now, for a considerable period, employed  
“ and supported 1200 distressed females in  
“ the metropolis;——their means of life  
“ are improved, and their characters ameliorated;——their children are placed out  
“ in the world, with the prospect of thriving;——but it has unfortunately hap-

“ pened, that in producing these effects we  
“ have exhausted our capital of £1100. and  
“ little more remains of it than what will  
“ discharge our debts.”

With this report before him, hard and insensible would that heart be, which would not immediately offer these ladies their congratulations on the success.—This however is the dark side of the tablet. On the reverse we read:—“ We have not succeeded in any degree, corresponding to the success of the lady, who has had the honour of first trying this experiment, at Tortola. But, tho not quite so successful, we have had a part of her success. In the two first years (after payment of all our expenses, and the discharge of the principal) we have had a large annual profit to dispose of in promoting the welfare of the poor.—Part of this we have appropriated towards a seminary for education of young women, who had been born with a hope of better fortune ;—part towards

“ the education of the poor in general;—the  
 “ residue we have applied in encouraging  
 “ female virtue, and in relieving female dis-  
 “ tress, in the metropolis. Since the two  
 “ first years, we have added annually £500.  
 “ to our capital, and yet we have had an  
 “ increasing surplus to provide for those  
 “ domestic distresses of the poor; which,  
 “ in proportion to the time that the experi-  
 “ ment has been made, are become less  
 “ urgent and are more easily relieved.”

Such would be the event of the failure,  
 and such of the success of the plan. Of the  
 most probable event, the middle line be-  
 tween them, the consequence would be  
 the *continuance of the employment of these*  
*women*, but with an advantage so incon-  
 siderable perhaps, as to offer beyond their  
 regular employment, not much more than  
 relief for the occasional distress of the per-  
 sons employed, education for their children,  
 and encouragement for their good habits.  
 However desirous of the most prosperous

event, I could easily reconcile my mind to the least fortunate,—as still offering relief to distress, instruction to ignorance, and incitement to virtue.

*7th Dec. 1804.*



## No. CXXIII.

*Extract from an Account of the Mode of employing Parish Children at Birmingham.* By the Rev. JOSIAH PRATT, A. M.

THE expediency of separating the children of the poor from those depraved and incorrigible persons, who too frequently form the population of a parish workhouse, had induced the overseers and guardians of the poor at Birmingham, to place such as were from 4 to 10 years of age, with nurses in the neighbouring villages. This, however, was attended with some inconveniences. The attention of the overseers and guardians was then directed to another object. A large building, about a mile from the town, was vacant. This suggested the formation of a separate establishment; and an offer having been made by some of the

guardians to conduct it, the new establishment commenced in July 1797.

A matron was appointed ; who, with a schoolmaster and mistress and one female servant, formed the household. The elder girls have assisted in cleaning the rooms, making the beds, &c. a kind of employment, which, while it ministers to general economy, improves them all in a most useful branch of domestic education. The girls have been taught to read ; and have been employed in knitting, needlework, &c. for the asylum and the workhouse, and for respectable families ; and such credit have they had for the manner in which their work has been done, that more has been sent them than they have been able to execute.

In summer, the boys have been occasionally sent to labour in the farms and gardens, in the vicinity of the Asylum, and to weed and pick stones. The produce of this, with the work of the girls, has formed a little

fund, which has enabled the committee to build a shop;\* where 40 boys are employed by a pinmaker to head the pins, and stick them in papers in rows. By the further increase of this source of labour, they have also built another room, where 40 girls are employed by a respectable draper in platting straw for ladies' hats and bonnets. The overseers and guardians are now going to enlarge the pin-shop, so as to include 40 boys more in that manufactory.

Besides the produce of their labour, these children do now acquire early habits of industry and subordination, to which they were before entire strangers; for, previously to this attempt to civilize these forlorn and unhappy creatures (most of whom had never known the reciprocal endearments and pow-

\* The profit of these children's work, from January 1800 to July 1804, has been £576. 4s. 4d.;—the expenditure in building, repairs, &c. £348. 10s. 7d.;—leaving a balance in the treasurer's hands, in July 1804, of £228. 10s. 9d.

erful operation of parental and filial affection) their rude and savage manners, and disregard of authority, had produced habits so untractable and turbulent, as for some time to baffle every effort of the committee to correct them.

The first expedient, which contributed at all to this object, was the placing of them in classes, and conducting them in order round the governor in the play-ground, several times a day; when he had an opportunity of marking their individual conduct, of correcting the disorderly, and of applauding the tractable. This has been followed by placing them in order at meals; and by every other measure that occurred, for impressing upon them ideas and habits of order and regularity. The good effects of these measures were daily more and more apparent; and these children are now become as orderly and as decent, as such a number of children, under one roof, can ever be expected to become.

They have also a Sunday service regularly and decently performed by a respectable young man, a clerk in the workhouse, who concludes with reading a sermon. On this service the whole family attends with much order and propriety.

The children have meat three times a week. They have also soup, puddings, rice, milk, bread, cheese and beer; and these the best of their kind. The medical gentlemen, who are employed for the workhouse, attend weekly in succession, and two physicians of the town have benevolently given their services when called upon.

The committee (5 in number) meet once a week at the Asylum, for the regulation of the accounts, and for the general superintendence of the whole. Each takes a department in providing the various supplies; making himself responsible for the quality, quantity, and terms, on which the articles are purchased. Thus the children are better



kept, and with more economy, than by any preceding plan.

The great object of this institution is eventually to place these children in society, with the advantage of better habits and propensities, than would have been derived without some such preparative education. And such has been the effect of the means applied, that they, who had been once the pest and dread of housekeepers and manufacturers, are now sought for with avidity, as orderly and useful servants, and have every opportunity afforded them of enjoying a comfortable and permanent subsistence.

These are certainly great advantages; especially as they have been obtained, not only without cost, but have been attended with the saving of a sum so considerable as £3009. in the space of seven years, computed from July 1797. The detail of the account is very correctly stated in the report of this charity published in

October last. I have therefore inserted it in a note.\*

## OBSERVATIONS

The great and essential benefit of the foregoing plan is the SEPARATION of the parish children from those hopeless and depraved characters, which constitute too great a part of the population of every workhouse.

\* PARISH OF BIRMINGHAM.—The following is a copy of the ANNUAL STATEMENTS made by the ASYLUM COMMITTEE, of the expences, and supposed savings, with the average number of children each year in that establishment, from its commencement in July 1797, to July 1804, inclusive.

FIRST REPORT. July 1798.			Savings to the Parish.			
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
The average number of children 248, if <i>put out</i> to nurse would cost the parish 2s. each per week                   -           -			1289	12	0	
Their maintenance, including rent, fire, wages, &c. at the asylum, at 1s. 4½ <i>d.</i> each per week cost               -           -			884	2	0	
			<hr/>			
				405	10	0

The reader should be aware that these children continue to be maintained by the

SECOND REPORT. *July 1799.*Savings to  
the Parish.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
The average number of children 290, if at nurse would cost 2s. each per week -	1508	0	0			
Their maintenance, at 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. each per week cost -	1021	8	5			
	<hr/>			486	11	7

THIRD REPORT. *July 1800.*

The average number of children 269, if at nurse would cost 2s. each per week -	1748	10	0			
Their maintenance, at 1s. 10d. each per week cost -	1283	1	4			
	<hr/>			465	8	6

FOURTH REPORT. *July 1801.*

The average number of children 281, if at nurse would cost 3s. each per week -	2191	16	0			
Their maintenance, at 2s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each per week, cost -	1555	14	6			
	<hr/>			636	1	6

FIFTH REPORT. *July 1802.*

The average number of children 250, if at nurse would cost 2s. 9d. each per week	1787	10	0			
Their maintenance, at 2s. 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. each per week cost -	1532	1	4			
	<hr/>			255	8	8

parish. But he will find that the expense of that maintenance in the seven preceding

SIXTH REPORT. July 1803.

Savings to  
the Parish.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
The average number of children 200, if at nurse would cost 2s. 9d. each per week	1430	0	0			
Their maintenance, at 2s. 2½d. each per week, cost -	1153	10	8			
	<hr/>			276	9	4

SEVENTH REPORT. July 1804.

The average number of children 235, if at nurse would cost 2s. 9d. each per week	1630	5	0			
Their maintenance, at 1s. 11½d. each per week, cost -	1196	10	10			
	<hr/>			483	14	2
				£. 3009	3	11

Beside the above savings in the maintenance of the children, they have made considerable earnings in labour suited to their ages; the boys, in the heading of pins and sticking them in rows; the girls in weaving straw for ladies' hats, knitting stockings for the workhouse and asylum, mending linen, &c. The smaller children are employed in making oakum from old ropes; the elder females contribute to the general comfort by their labour in the house, which reduces the establishment to a governess, schoolmaster and mistress, and one female servant. Their habits of industry produce a cheerful subordination and render them more acceptable when called into any service in active life. Their health is also much benefited by the order in which they live; for

years, has been less by £3000. than it would have been in the parish workhouse.

As the account now stands, the parish has made an annual saving of above £400. a year;—has sent out their poor children with the means and ability of maintaining themselves;—has diminished the profligacy, and improved the habits and industry, of their neighbourhood; and in that class of young persons, who in many other parishes are daily proceeding from idle habits to atrocious crimes,—has had the gratification of

many weeks in succession not one is to be seen on the sick list, and seldom more than one or two at a time; few in such a number have died, and none are oppressed with hard labour, so as to produce deformity, which was not uncommon while under the care of hireling nurses in the neighbouring villages.

It might also be added, that the view in making this report public, is not only to shew the town, that considerable, and not unsuccessful efforts are made to mitigate the burthens of parochial taxes; but at the same time to prevent, in some measure, their recurrence, by uniting profitable labour with useful habits, in this branch of the rising generation—"The children of the poor." It was likewise considered, that it might afford some useful hints to neighbouring parishes, to prove that the moderate labour of children is not only productive of present profit, but of permanent and extensive benefit to the parish, and to society.



observing a gradual and uninterrupted progress in habits of industry and prudence, and in the practice of morality and religion.

*5th. Jan. 1805.*

## No. CXXIV.

*Extract from an Account of a Provision for the Poor at Ongar, during Sickness. By the Rev. WM. HERRINGHAM.*

IN the parish of Chipping Ongar, in the county of Essex, there are provided for the use of the poor, in time of sickness, not only bed linen and a wrapping flannel gown, but also a large easy wicker chair with a head to it, a bed chair, and a stand for a candlestick with a convenient apparatus for a *pannikin* at the top, in which any kind of liquid may be heated, merely by a rush-light. These articles, with blankets, which are distributed amongst the poor in winter, and are required to be returned in warm weather, are kept at the workhouse and may be obtained upon application.

The chair, which is also made to answer the purpose of a night chair, being of wicker, is lighter and more easily carried about than a wooden chair, and has been provided at a reasonable expense, having cost only £1. 6s. It has likewise the advantage of being easily washed, as the lining (which is wadded) is only tied in with tapes ; and being hooded, is a shelter to the patient against the wind. The candlestick is of modern contrivance, consisting of a tube with a kind of bason at the top of it, both which are filled with water. Into this tube a rush-light is placed, which, as it wastes in burning, is raised up by the water, and kept always at the same height, by which means it is sufficiently near to the pannikin, fixed in a frame above it, to warm any liquid which it contains.

### OBSERVATIONS.

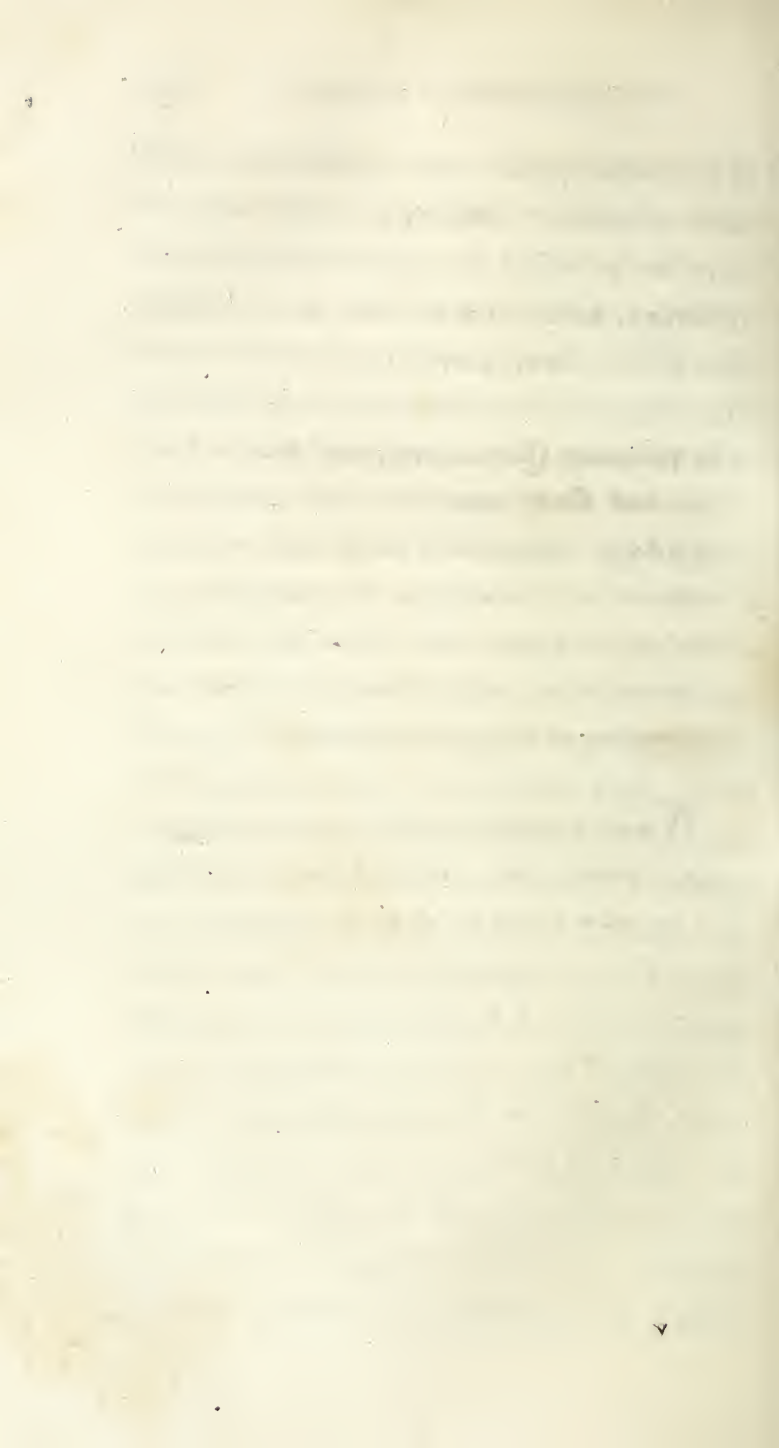
The want of some conveniencies of this kind in country parishes, must have been frequently noticed by those, who are in the

habit of visiting the sick cottager or his family. Many a poor person has been prevented from sitting up, when it was advisable so to do, by not having any thing to sit in but a common chair, which does not afford the support, to be found in an easy chair, nor the warmth and comfort to be derived from a wrapping flannel gown, aided by the lining of the chair. And when the weakness of a patient has rendered a removal from the bed almost impossible, the want of a bed chair has been ill supplied, by some person supporting the patient during the time of administering either medicine or food. The difficulty which poor families experience in obtaining a change of bed-linen during sickness is very obvious; nor is it a trifling inconvenience, that out of a scanty pittance, they are sometimes compelled to keep a fire during the night; when the state of the patient would not require it for warmth; and when the heat of a candle, if they had the means of supplying it properly, would be sufficient for the purpose of warming any liquid.

If it should appear, upon consideration, that these domestic comforts of the sick poor may be provided in any parish at a very trifling expense, it is not too much to hope, that this mode of alleviating the sufferings of the sick, and of accelerating their recovery, will be adopted by other parishes.

*8th Jan. 1805.*





# APPENDIX.

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## No. I.

REPORT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE  
SOCIETY UPON SOME OBSERVATIONS ON  
THE LATE ACT RESPECTING COTTON MILLS,  
AND ON THE ACCOUNT OF MR. HEY'S VISIT  
TO A COTTON MILL AT BURLEY.

*To this is subjoined, a Copy of the aforesaid  
Observations and Account, and of the Reso-  
lutions of the Magistrates of the County of  
Lancaster, and of the West Riding of the  
County of York on the Subject.*

THE Select Committee is sensible of the great increase of wealth, and the large portion of national revenue which is derived from Cotton Mills. A body of men so respectable as those manufacturers, who, at the same time that they have made princely fortunes for themselves, have added fresh sources to the strength and prosperity of their country, must always be intitled to respect and attention; and any objections that come from them will be fully intitled to consideration and discussion.

In the Observations the Committee has first to notice the remark, that no grievance has been

*alleged* to exist, as a cause for what is termed the *interference* of the legislature.—Whether conclusive proof has ever been offered of the *existence* of such grievance, may be the subject of question; but it can never be doubted that *allegations* have been made, not only of grievances existing in many of our Cotton Mills, but also of the health and morals, the present and future hopes of thousands of children, being annually sacrificed in them. These allegations have been repeated by individuals visiting, and by families residing, in their neighbourhoods; and they have been frequently noticed by the magistrates. From other documents, offering at least *a ground of enquiry* on the part of the magistrate, the resolutions of the justices in the neighbourhood of Manchester, and of those in the West Riding of York where the above-mentioned Mill is situate, have been selected, and are subjoined to this report.

In the Observations it is stated to be necessary, that about one-sixth part of the apprentices in Cotton Mills should work by night; for “free  
“labourers cannot be obtained to perform the  
“night work, but upon very disadvantageous terms  
“to the manufacturers; who, for the sake of secur-  
“ing one spinner, would, in many cases, be  
“obliged to engage the whole family, consisting

“ of five or six persons, without being at all benefited by the labour of the rest.”—There seems to be no inconvenience, to the public at least, that the manufacturer should find it his interest, to employ the other members of a poor family, for the sake of one good workman; but it is evidently cruel and unjust, that the poor orphan, or the deserted child, should be *compelled* to do that *night work* which the free labourer cannot, on any practicable or moderate terms, be *induced* to undertake.

The manufacturer's loss, by the cessation of night work, appears to the Committee to be very much over rated. It is stated in the *Observations*, that only one-sixth of the apprentices, in the Mill at Burley, work by night.—The use of free labour continues, as in a free country it ought ever to be, unrestrained. Besides this, the restriction as to apprentices does not go to a *moiety* of the twenty-four hours, but leaves fifteen of them for work. Again, in large Mills, like that at Burley, two years are allowed by the Act (to the 25th of June, 1804) to prepare for the cessation of night work. So that either the hiring of a few free labourers, or the addition, in the course of those two years, of a little more building (equal to an eighth part of their existing work-rooms) will enable them to continue their present amount of work.

Your Committee observes that, in the Observations an objection is made, in very strong terms, to the guarded and limited power, which by the Act is given to magistrates to visit Cotton Mills, and to make a report of their state and condition. It is said that if this power is once exercised, “all  
“subordination will be at an end; let the visitors  
“conduct themselves with what discretion they  
“may, the mills and factories will become a scene  
“either of idleness and disorder, or of open rebellion.”—This assertion comes very unexpectedly from a gentleman, who has very lately invited a voluntary and gratuitous visit to, and report upon, his own factory; and the reasons given in the Observations why such visits will “be attended with  
“the worst of consequences,” do not afford immediate pleasure on the perusal. It is stated, that  
“a considerable degree of authority must be ex-  
“erted, and very strict discipline must be kept up,  
“to ensure the continuance of good order, and  
“respect and obedience to the master.”—What these words may mean in other countries we cannot say; but, in England, they would be applicable to none but criminals; certainly not to orphans and deserted children, the general description of those who are sent to Cotton Mills.—With regard to the children of beggars and chimney-sweepers (the



only two classes of apprentices enumerated in the Observations) the first have, unfortunately, and by a radical defect in our police, a much more lucrative trade ; and of chimney-sweepers, those in good business are in the receipt of many hundred pounds a year, and can advance their offspring more profitably in life ; and even the poorer chimney-sweepers can always employ their children, to more advantage, in their own business.

It is with some surprise that the Committee notices an observation, that the interference of the magistrate, *however discreetly exercised*, will produce *insubordination* in the apprentice.—The daily experience of the country is exactly the reverse. The subordination of the apprentice *cannot be preserved*, without the interference of the magistrate.—There is no novelty in that interference : and, with respect to discipline and controul, the powers of the magistrate continue precisely the same, as before the passing of the Act.—It is the spirit of our poor laws, that all poor apprentices should be, peculiarly and immediately, under the view, controul, and protection of the magistrate ; and if he should be induced to allow personal or private motives to influence his magisterial conduct, the Court of King's Bench is ever ready to remind him of his duty.

That Cotton Mills should become, what in the Observations they are stated to be at present, a desirable seminary for children, is the object and intent of the Act. But your Committee apprehends that will never be the case, while they are sent in numbers, from workhouses in the metropolis, to places distant and unknown, secluded from the eye of the magistrate, and with no ear to which they may address their complaints; but depending for protection and preservation, either on the attention of their own parochial overseers, who have removed them far from their observation, or on the kindness and parental affection of those who have received them for the purpose of making a considerable advantage of their labour, with very little out-going.

In adverting to MR. HEY'S account, the members of the Select Committee feel a real satisfaction, in expressing their respect for his personal and professional character. The purposes of the Act, they think, could not be better answered in any other way, than if Mr. Hey, and such men as he, would, *in a magisterial capacity*, accept the office of VISITORS of the Cotton and Woollen Mills.—But, as to the view which he took of the Mill at Burley, on the 30th of April, 1802, it appears to have been merely the visit of a *friend* of the manufacturer: it was made at an hour when the Mill

and the children were prepared for his reception ; and by a person who had no power of controul, no means of redress. If we could suppose that it had been made to some other Mill, where a system of cruelty and ill-treatment might have prevailed, what inducement would the children have had to make known the ill-usage they had received? What could they have expected from it, but punishment and increased severity?

By Mr. Hey's account we are informed, that the night-working apprentices " work from seven in the evening to six in the morning. Their dinner is brought them at midnight; but the Mill is not stopped, to allow them any period of perfect rest for eating their dinner. They take it whenever the work is going on so favorably, as not to prevent them from eating. After leaving the Mill at six (in the morning), they take what is to them a supper, and are employed till ten in the morning, either in learning which is pursued in the winter season, or in summer in sportive exercises. They then go to bed, and rise at six, or half-past six in the evening ; and, after their breakfast, go to the Mill at seven."—The account afterwards states, that " that the night-workers are not changed, but do this work for four or five years successively."

Such is Mr. Hey's account.—Now, if we were

to read in the history of some part of Asia, or Africa, an account of children who, from seven to twelve years, or from eight to thirteen years of age, were doomed to *unceasing labour every night* without the glad and natural return of day,—without a few minutes of respite for their meals,—and, (in the winter half-year at least) without even an half-hour for that relaxation, which is the comfort of mature age, but the essential possession of the young,—should we not *shudder* at the perusal? Should we give very willing credit to any detail that was subjoined, of the *health* and *happiness* of these children? And, if (to pursue the consideration) the government of that country should have prepared for the progressive emancipation of these children, at the end of two years, what language should we hold as to those, who would unite to prevent their receiving the benefit of so just and politic a law?

If night employment is not the effect of coercion, why, the Committee would ask, are not other children employed in it by turns? Why cannot the free labourers be *bribed* to take their share of it?—With all the curiosity and fickleness, which perpetually induces children to seek for change and novelty even to their prejudice, Mr. Hey informs us, that no boy, who worked by day, would prefer the night-work; and in the Observations we are

told, that no terms, which the manufacturer can afford to give, would induce the free labourer to work by night. What then are we to suppose of other children preferring it?—What, of their informing us, that their health is improved by it; or that they have more time and leisure for their education, and to pursue their studies, while they work by night?

The exclusion of the magistrate from the inspection of Cotton Mills,—the labour of children for many hours, without any cessation on account of food, or of instruction, or of relaxation,—and the continued practice of night-work by the same children for years, without change or vicissitude of hours,—are circumstances which the Committee flatters itself do not occur in *many Cotton Mills*.—It has not been alledged that grievances do exist in *all* Cotton Mills. The Committee has a pleasure in stating, that many are now worked, in conformity to the principles of the late Act of Parliament. *Respite is allowed in them for meals, for relaxation, for instruction; and an entire cessation of labour takes place during the night.*—From the practical experience of those Mills the regulations of the late Act were framed.

Upon the whole, the Select Committee submits to the Society, that, however well regulated and well



conducted the Mill at Burley *may be*, there appears nothing, even in that instance, to impeach the propriety and expediency of the late Act respecting Cotton Mills. And it is conceived, even if that Mill did not especially and peculiarly call for the general provisions of the Act, a mere insulated case would afford no reason, against a general law to extend those provisions to other cases, where it is so much wanted. They conclude by expressing their opinion, that the placing of Cotton and Woollen Mills more immediately under the inspection and controul of the magistrate, the preventing of apprentices from *being worked by night*, and the providing for their health and cleanliness, and for their moral and religious instruction,—as has been done by the late act,—is essential, not only to the condition and moral character of apprentices and of others employed in these Mills, but to the welfare of the community at large.

*December 3, 1802.*

*Supplement, No. I, containing Observations on an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament, respecting Apprentices employed in Cotton and other Factories.*

IN the printed remarks on the Bill, the various reasons are detailed that render the labour, by night,

of about one-sixth part of the whole number of apprentices in Cotton Mills, necessary. And as it would be impossible, in the present times, to carry on many of the Mills and works that have been constructed without the assistance of apprentices; and as these cannot be made profitable to their masters without some proportion of night labour, (which is incontestably proved not to be injurious to their health) it seems a peculiar hardship that by the interference of the Legislature in a case where no grievance has been alledged to exist, the owners of these Mills should be laid under such restrictions, as will render useless to them the powerful streams by which their Machinery is worked, and cause the large capital which has been embarked, to become totally unproductive.

Free labourers cannot be obtained to perform the night-work, but upon very disadvantageous terms to the manufacturers; who, for the sake of securing one spinner, would in many cases be obliged to engage the whole family, consisting perhaps of five or six persons, without being at all benefited by the labour of the rest.

The bad consequences that would follow from mixing apprentices with free labourers are too obvious to be insisted on.

The instruction of apprentices in reading, writ-

ing, and arithmetic, is a most desirable object in every point of view ; and is what all humane masters would wish to see accomplished. But in Cotton Mills, the defalcation of an hour or two from the twelve working hours, especially where a great number of apprentices is employed, would amount to a surrender of all the profits of the establishment : and the instruction which could be given during the hours appointed for labour, must necessarily be very imperfect. The children should be allowed, and even encouraged, to indulge in sportive exercises in Summer, after their work is done ; and in Winter, when the season does not admit of their being abroad, they may be educated in a room adapted for the purpose. A portion of the Sunday may also be set apart for education throughout the year.

- The subjecting of Cotton Mills and Factories to the visitation of magistrates (tho in itself very desirable for the masters or owners, who must be supposed anxious to shew that their apprentices were well fed, clothed, and educated, and treated properly in every other respect) would be attended with the very worst of consequences, and for the following reasons :—many of the apprentices in the cotton trade being procured from poor-houses in London, are composed of the children of beggars,

chimney-sweepers, and others, accustomed to live in total ignorance and idleness, and not unfrequently addicted to stealing, swearing, and other vices.— They are to be reformed in these particulars, and to be taught order, cleanliness, and decency of conduct; to accomplish which, *a considerable degree of authority*, must be at first exerted by the master; and when all evil habits shall have been conquered, *very strict discipline must be kept up* to ensure the continuance of good order, and respect and obedience to him.— What effects will be produced in such establishments by the introduction of visitors (whom the children will regard as invested with a controuling power over their masters) it is easy to foresee.— All subordination will be at an end, let the visitors conduct themselves with what discretion they may: the Mills and Factories will become a scene either of idleness and disorder, or of open rebellion; or the masters, harassed and tired out by the incessant complaints of their apprentices, and the perpetual interference of the visitors, will be obliged to give up their works; and some of them, after being involved in difficulties (resulting from the operation of the Act) may perhaps become bankrupts, or be obliged to remove to a foreign country, leaving their apprentices a grievous load upon the parish where they were

employed. The laws, in existence before the late Act, are sufficient for the protection of apprentices from ill-usage; and it may be regarded as certain, that the visitatorial power given by that Act (tho with the best intention) will be found, in practice, to have the very worst of consequences, even with respect to the children, whose condition it is intended to ameliorate.

To children left upon parishes in general, and to the immense number with which the poor-houses in London are crowded, and who from their vicious habits are unfit to be placed in private families, Cotton Mills and Factories, under proper regulations, open a most desirable asylum; as the children are not only taught a trade, by which they can at all times earn a livelihood; but, under humane masters, they receive at the same time a considerable portion of religious and other education.—Many of them, as the reward of industry and good conduct, are instructed in trades, connected with mills and factories, as joiners, turners, brass-workers, white-smiths, &c.; and those who have made the greatest proficiency in their education, are advanced to the offices of clerks and book-keepers; thus arriving at stations of usefulness and respectability which few other establishments can offer.—Children in Cotton Mills and Factories are also



better fed and better clothed, and have more attention paid to their health and morals, than those who are placed as apprentices with poor mechanics ; where, too often, the desire of the parish to get rid of the child, and the temptation of the small fee paid to the master on the occasion, are the only circumstances regarded. Children may also be employed at an earlier age in Cotton Mills or Factories, than elsewhere ; particularly females ; and as those manufacturers who have established their works for the express purpose of employing apprentices (and such will in general be found to have been constructed upon the largest streams, and on the most extensive scale) can only expect to procure a sufficient supply by the good treatment of their apprentices, a regard to their own interest will insure that degree of kindness and care towards them, which the laws cannot enforce.

From these statements it is presumed, that a repeal of the late Act, or a considerable modification of its obnoxious clauses, will appear indispensably necessary to the future success of a great number of persons embarked in the spinning and manufacturing of Cotton ; who have not only contributed largely to the public revenue, but, after having rescued a great number of children from vice and misery, have, at a heavy expense, trained them up

in the habits of industry and religion, and rendered them (before a load upon society) now some of its most useful members.

*Supplement, No. II, containing an Account of a Visit to the Cotton Mills at Burley, by Mr. HEY, a Surgeon of eminence and respectability at Leeds.*

*Leeds, May 1st, 1802.*

YESTERDAY I visited the Factory of Messrs. Whitaker and Merryweather, of Greenholme, in the Township of Burley, near Otley. The Rev. Mr. Dikes, Minister of St. John's in Hull, who happened to be at my house, accompanied me, and assisted me in the examination of the apprentices.

We took a general view of the children, saw them at dinner, inspected their lodging-rooms, and spoke separately in a private room with about one hundred of them, generally admitting but one apprentice at a time; we talked singly with every one who works in the night-time.

There are about two hundred and sixty apprentices in this Factory, as we were informed, out of whom fifty-two work from seven in the evening to six in the morning. Their dinner is brought to them at midnight; but the mill is not stopped to allow them any period of perfect rest for eating

their dinner. They take it whenever the work is going on so favourably, as not to prevent them from eating. After leaving the Mill at six, they take what is to them a supper, and are employed till ten in the morning, either in learning which is pursued in the Winter season, or in summer in sportive exercises. They then go to bed, and rise at six or half past six in the evening, and after their breakfast go to the Mill at seven.

Thus they have eleven hours of continued labour; but labour, which admits of many short intervals of rest. The day-workers are employed twelve hours and a quarter in the mill, and have an interval of three quarters of an hour for dinner. The night-workers are all boys.

The health of the boys does not appear to have suffered, in any degree, from their night-work; but it seemed not so pleasant to the children, in general, as that of the day. About five, out of every six, informed us that they should prefer the day-labour; but their reasons for this preference were various. The sole objection of some was the being called up to begin their work, immediately after twelve, on Sunday nights. Others said, they could not sleep so well in the day-time; and were sometimes waked by the children, who dine in the room below their sleeping room. Others complained that they could

not do their work so well by candle-light. Of those who made no complaint, a few declared that they preferred the night work, as it gave them more time to pursue their education in the day-time. Others seemed quite indifferent as to the time of their employment. And one boy thought his health much improved since he began night-work.

No day-boy, however, would say that he should prefer the night-work. The night-workers are not changed ; but the same boys do this work, for four or five years successively. Yet no death has hitherto occurred amongst the night-workers.

There has been no death of any child, within the last twelve months.—I cannot say that the night-workers appear more healthy than the rest of the apprentices ; but I am decidedly of opinion, that the night-labour has not injured the health of the apprentices, who work in this Factory.

The girls seemed uniformly healthy and happy.

All the apprentices declared that they had plenty of food, and were treated kindly by their masters.

The care taken in the religious and moral education of the apprentices in this Factory, does great credit to the proprietors of it. A great proportion of those, with whom we conversed singly, gave such serious and sensible answers to our inquiries on this head, that we should consider establishments

of this kind as the best seminaries for the children of the poor, could we entertain the hope, that a like care was taken of their education in every place where so large a number of children are collected.

WILLIAM HEY, SURGEON.

*Supplement, No. III, containing Resolutions of the Magistrates of the County Palatine of Lancaster, at their Manchester Michaelmas Quarter Sessions, 1784.*

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

**T**HAT it is the opinion of this Court, that it is become highly expedient for the magistrates of this county to refuse their allowance to indentures of *parish apprentices* whereby they shall be bound to *owners of Cotton Mills* and other works, in which children are obliged to work in *the night*, or more than ten hours in the day. And it is ordered that this resolution shall be transmitted to the clerks of the peace of the counties of Chester, Flint, Denbigh, Stafford, Derby, and Westmorland, and the different ridings of the county of York; and that it be also printed in the public newspapers.

By order of Court,

JAMES TAYLOR,

Deputy Clerk of the Peace for the  
County-Palatine of Lancaster.



*Supplement, No. IV, containing Resolutions of the Magistrates of the West Riding of the County of York, at the Wakefield adjourned Sessions, 22d May, 1800.*

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

THAT as the power, given by the forty-third of Elizabeth to two justices to assent to a parish indenture, is not a ministerial but a judicial act, and that as the justices are empowered to take children out of the arms of their parents to bind them apprentices, the law having made them guardians of those poor children who have no others to take care of them, it therefore highly behoves such justices to examine minutely, and with humanity, into the situation of the masters to whom the apprentices are to be bound.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

That we will not in future (and it is strongly recommended to all other magistrates of the West Riding, to adopt the same regulations) allow of any indentures for binding out parish apprentices, unless the parent or parents (if living) of the children, and the overseers of the poor of the parish being parties thereto, shall have all been previously before us for examination, and the proposed master shall,

have been previously summoned to attend; and where different towns and parishes are concerned, the overseers of such towns or parishes shall also be first summoned, to give them the opportunity of shewing cause against such allowance of parish indentures.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

That we will not, on any account, allow of the *apprenticing of poor children* to the masters or owners of *Cotton Mills* or other works of the kind, where such poor children shall be obliged to work in the *night time*, or for an unreasonable number of hours in the day time.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

That we will not in future allow of the binding out parish apprentices to masters resident in any other parish than where such poor children originally belong; unless under particular circumstances, and particular cases.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY,

That it is highly expedient that the justices of this Riding should, in their separate districts, compel the overseers of the poor to make a general return of the state of the poor within their respective townships, at least twice in the year, at a petty sessions to be holden for the purpose; but more particularly of the state, condition, and treatment of

parish apprentices, in order that the justices, who are the legal guardians of such poor children, may the better do their duty, and render the situation of a parish apprentice more comfortable, and less dreaded than at present.

(Signed)

<i>Hawke.</i>	<i>Jonathan Walker.</i>
<i>B. Frank.</i>	<i>John Lowe.</i>
<i>M. A. Taylor.</i>	<i>E. H. Hawke.</i>
<i>B. Cooke.</i>	<i>Watts Horton.</i>
<i>J. Stovin.</i>	<i>John Beckett.</i>
<i>F. F. Foljambe.</i>	<i>H. Parker.</i>
<i>B. Brooksbank.</i>	<i>C. Alderson.</i>
<i>J. Smyth.</i>	<i>J. J. Slingsby.</i>
<i>A. Newman.</i>	<i>John Tripp.</i>
<i>W. Wood.</i>	<i>John Watson.</i>
<i>J. Dixon.</i>	<i>Anthony Surtees.</i>
<i>T. B. Bayley.</i>	<i>Richard Green.</i>
<i>G. W. Wentworth.</i>	<i>J. S. Foljambe.</i>
<i>John Blayds.</i>	<i>J. Price.</i>
<i>George Armytage.</i>	<i>C. Cooper.</i>
<i>William Dawson.</i>	<i>R. D. Waddilove.</i>
<i>Joseph Radcliffe.</i>	<i>Thomas Garforth.</i>
<i>H. W. Coulthurst.</i>	<i>J. Geldart.</i>
<i>R. H. Beaumont.</i>	<i>C. Knowlton.</i>
<i>R. A. Athorpe,</i>	

## No. II.

EXTRACT FROM AN ACCOUNT OF THE DREADFUL EFFECTS OF DRAM-DRINKING, WITH DIRECTIONS FOR THOSE WHO ARE DESIROUS OF RETURNING TO SOBRIETY AND HEALTH.

*The following account of the effects of the intemperate use of spirituous liquors, is extracted from a publication entitled "REPORTS ON THE DISEASES IN LONDON." At the request of the Society, the author has furnished proper MEDICAL DIRECTIONS, for those who have injured their constitutions by this kind of intemperance. —The whole is now published by the Society, in the hope that it may preserve some individuals, at least, from the miserable consequences of Dram-drinking.*

THE intemperate use of Spirituous Liquors has been found by experience, for many years past, more destructive to the labouring class of people in cities, and manufacturing towns, than all the injuries accruing from unhealthy seasons, impure air, infection, and close confinement to work within

doors, or much fatigue without. It is likewise ascertained that the same bad habit not only produces a tedious and peculiar malady; but is often the means of rendering inveterate, or even fatal, many diseases of the throat and lungs, also fevers and inflammations of the bowels, liver, kidneys, &c. which would have otherwise readily yielded to proper medical treatment.

On comparing my own observations with the bills of mortality, I am convinced, that considerably more than *one-eighth* of all the deaths which take place in the metropolis, in persons above twenty years old, happen prematurely through excess in drinking *Spirits*. These pernicious liquors are generally supposed to have an immediate and specific effect on the liver; which has been found, after death, in drinkers of spirits, hardened or altered as to its texture, discoloured, and diminished. It appears, however, that the stomach and bowels suffer first from the use of spirits; and that their baneful influence is afterwards extended gradually to every part of the body, producing the following symptoms.

*In the first Stage.*

*Indigestion*, attended with a disrelish of plain food; with frequent nausea, and oppressive pains



at the stomach; with an *inexpressible sensation of sinking, faintness,\* and horror*; and with sudden convulsive discharges from the stomach into the mouth, of a clear, acid, or sweetish fluid.—*Racking pains, and violent contractions*, of the stomach and bowels. These symptoms often return periodically, about four o'clock in the morning, being attended with *extreme depression, or languor*, a shortness of breath, and the *most dreadful apprehensions*.—In persons of a sanguine habit, tedious inflammations of the membrane which covers the bowels producing intense pain, so that the slightest pressure on the belly cannot be endured.

### *Effects and Appearances in the second Stage.*

Swelling of the body, *emaciation* of the limbs, with frequent *cramps*; and *pains of the joints*, finally settling in the soles of the feet. These symptoms are succeeded by a degree of *palsy*, or,

\* The daily custom of drinking *tea*, which has lately so much increased among the poor, and of relying on that and a bit of bread, butter, and sugar, for the sole supply of animal life, has contributed to the production of low *nervous diseases*; and in its consequences has impelled many to the *habitual use of spirituous liquors*, who (if they could have been aware of the pernicious effects of the *vice of dram-drinking*) would have avoided it with horror.

at least, an incapacity of moving the limbs with any considerable effect. *Sallowness of complexion*, with dryness and scaliness of the skin. As the powers of circulation are more and more impaired, the red vessels disappear from the white of the eye, the secretion of bile is imperfectly performed, and the small hairs of the skin fall off, leaving the surface, especially of the lower extremities, very smooth and shining.—*Jaundice and dropsical swellings* of the legs, with general redness or inflammation of the skin, terminating in black spots and gangrenous ulcers.—*Ulcers* in the mouth, throat, &c. and an offensive smell of the breath similar to that of rotten apples.—Profuse discharges of blood from the nostrils, stomach, bowels, kidneys, or bladder; and from the lungs, in persons of a consumptive habit,

### *Effects in the last Stage.*

*An entire change in the state of mind.* At first, *low spirits, strange sensations, and groundless fears*, alternate with unseasonable, and often boisterous mirth: a degree of stupidity, or confusion of ideas, succeeds. The memory and the faculties depending on it being impaired, there takes place an indifference towards usual occupations, and

accustomed society or amusements. No interest is taken in the concerns of others: no love, no sympathy remains. Even natural affection to nearest relatives is gradually extinguished; and *the moral sense seems obliterated*. The wretched victims of a *fatal poison* fall, at length, into a state of fatuity; and die, with the powers of body and mind wholly exhausted. Some after repeated fits of DERANGEMENT expire in a *sudden and violent phrenzy*; some are hurried out of the world by APOPLEXIES; others perish by the slower process of jaundice, dropsy, internal ulcers, and mortification in the limbs.

### *Directions in the first Stage.*

Those who are awakened to a sense of the evils which threaten them, in the *first stage* of the above disorder, *while only the stomach and bowels are much affected*, have it in their power to retreat from danger, to avoid a lingering painful death, and to recover health with tranquillity. But this cannot be accomplished by exchanging one form of spirit for another, nor by substituting (in place of spirits) opium, or any of its preparations;—a plan which many have tried, but with the effect of producing a much worse state, and more dreadful sensations

than those they wished to avoid. Some have resolutely broken the chain, rejecting at once all fermented liquors, and have persevered through life in drinking water alone. Examples of this kind, tho praiseworthy, are seldom followed. A *gradual weaning* from the destructive beverage has been attempted with more success; but it requires a fixed determination.

The spirit should first be *diluted* with an equal proportion of water, and its quantity be afterwards a little diminished daily. In the mean time, the stomach must be habituated to the use of *porter*; or, in some individuals, *wine*;—both of which are usually rejected by spirit drinkers, as too cold, flat, and ascendent.—By this change of liquors it is not proposed to recommend one species of excess, in lieu of another. Tho wine may be proper and useful, no man can benefit his constitution by it, who constantly takes beyond six glasses of a moderate size in 24 hours. A labourer will receive more durable support and exhilaration, from *porter* than from *spirits*: but the advantages of it would be likewise entirely defeated, if a quantity were every day taken, nearly sufficient to produce a state of intoxication.

When a glass of spirit has been drank merely as

a pastime, to fill up the pauses of work, that object might be attained in a much more innocent way, by taking *snuff*, or smoking a *pipe of tobacco*, over a pint of beer: for tobacco has a no less cheering effect than spirits, while it is not in any respect detrimental.

Whoever makes the attempt to abandon spirit-drinking will find, from time to time, a *rankling on the stomach*, with a sensation of *sinking*, *coldness*, and *inexpressible anxiety*. This may be relieved by taking often a cupful of an infusion of *cloves*, made by steeping about an ounce of them in a pint of boiling water for six hours, and then straining off the liquor. In a state of permanent languor and debility, an ounce and a half of the cascarilla bark should be added to the infusion. This mixture, taken in the quantity above specified, three times a day, will be found an useful strengthener of the stomach and bowels, when they have been disordered by frequent excess and intoxication. In the trial to exchange the use of spirits for that of malt liquor, &c. there will be for the first month or two a *disagreeable heat* and *acidity*, occasionally felt in the stomach; which may be removed by a tea spoonful of magnesia, or prepared chalk, taken in the infusion of cloves, or in a glass of simple peppermint water. The *yolk of an egg* taken from the



shell, without any preparation, likewise contributes to the same effect. The diet should be so regulated, as to nourish and support the body, without oppressing the organs of digestion.—But little should be taken at a time, and repeated according to the state of the appetite: the food to consist of *tea*, or *cocoa*, with a good proportion of milk in it; *gruel*, *broth*, *sago*, *jellies*, and *bread-pudding*; afterwards as strength is restored, *flounders*, *oysters*, and any light *fresh meat*. The slighter articles may be taken between meals, for the purpose of alleviating the sensation of faintness and sinking at the stomach, which so frequently recurs.

#### *Directions in the second Stage.*

In the second stage of the disorder, when the *complexion* becomes *sallow*, the face bloated, the *eyes pearl coloured*; when external inflammation, or inward *hemorrhagy*, is superadded to *hardness* and *swelling* of the *belly*, and a *dropsical* state of the lower limbs; it is not only necessary to refrain from the exciting cause, but to apply (under the direction of some experienced practitioner) a *course* of medicine, adapted to the circumstances of the case, and to the constitution of the sufferer. Any attempt to discontinue the use of spirit at this

period, when the habit is fully confirmed, occasions extreme *debi'ty*, *lowness*, *tremors*, and even the *dread of instant death*. This apprehension has not, I believe, in any instance been realized; yet patients are so strongly impressed with the idea, that the utmost caution is requisite. An unexceptionable plan, which has by some at least been adopted with success, is to drink as often in the day as usual, and always out of the same glass, but every time it is emptied, to put a drop of melting sealing-wax, till at last no cavity shall remain, when it is presumable the habit may be subdued, and health, with self-command, be restored. A light nutritive diet, selected from the articles abovementioned, is at the same time proper.

### *Directions as to the last Stage.*

In the last stage, when both the bodily powers and faculties of the mind are impaired, or nearly lost, any representations to the patients themselves must be fruitless. The interference of relations or friends, becomes necessary: and their exertions, with the assistance of a confidential physician, or surgeon, may sometimes reinstate a shattered constitution. Most of the persons affected, however, sink from their state of wretchedness to the grave.

—Let their fate admonish others, who have thoughtlessly commenced the same career, to stop in time, and to endeavour, while it is yet in their power, to regain that peace of mind, and vigour of body, which render human existence most truly valuable.

11th Jan. 1803.

## No. III.

HINTS AS TO THE MANUFACTURE OF SPLIT  
STRAW.

*The following HINTS for the information of persons desirous of introducing the manufacture of Split Straw into schools and cottages, were prepared by Mr. Dougan, and published for distribution. They have been of much use to persons, who have wished to assist the cottager's family, by the introduction of this species of employment among them. In the hope of their being of still more service, they are here inserted.*

THERE are few manufactures in the kingdom in which so little capital is wanted, or the knowledge of the art so soon acquired, as in that of *Straw-platting*. One guinea is quite sufficient for the purchase of the machines and materials, for employing 100 persons for several months. Two machines cost 4s.; a few dozen pounds of brimstone, and the remaining sum in straw, is all that is required; the expense of a teacher excepted, which

will be from 7s. to 10s. a week, with board and travelling charges. One of the young women of Avebury went to Devizes and taught a school of about 30 persons for six weeks, for which she received two guineas; and on similar terms, it is imagined persons can be had from London, or from any part where Straw-platting is made. The knowledge of it is no longer confined to a few persons, or withheld from the public in general.

*An endeavour will be made to give a general Idea  
of the Process.*

In selecting the straw, which is of wheat, the best platters are very choice and particular. The straws should be as free from blight and spots as possible, and small, short, soft straws, are reckoned best. The straw is cut or broken at the joints, and the outer covering being removed, is sorted of equal sizes, and formed in short bundles of eight or ten inches in length, and a foot in circumference. It is dipped once or twice in water and shaken a little, so as not to retain too much moisture; and the bundles are placed on their edges, in a box, which is sufficiently close to prevent the evaporation of smoke. In the middle of the box an earthen dish is placed, containing a pound of brimstone, broken in pieces: this is set on fire, and the box covered



over. It should remain eight or ten hours, and this process should never be suffered to be done within doors. Two days after, or as soon as the straw is moderately dry, it is fit to be used. It will then be necessary to re-examine the bundles, and to select those straws which are best blanched, free from spots, and are of the same degree of softness. A tough straw and a pliant one will not work up well together.

It will be the work of one person to split and select the straws for 50 workers. A sufficient quantity should be previously prepared for several days consumption. The straws, when split, are termed splints. A portion of these, about a handful, is given to each worker; and great care taken that these splints should not be dirtied, or handled carelessly, so as to be bent. It is a common practice to hold a parcel of these splints between the fingers. It is a much better method to wrap a piece of cloth round the ends of the splints, and keep them under the arm, and draw them out as they are wanted. Platters should be taught to use their second fingers and thumbs, instead of the forefingers, which are often required to assist in turning the splints, and very much facilitate the platting. They should be cautioned against wetting the splints too much. Water takes off the fine polish of the straw, and

makes it liable to attract and retain the dust of the room. Each platter should have a small linen work bag, and a piece of pasteboard to roll the platt round. After five yards have been worked up, it should be wound about a piece of board half a yard wide, fastened at the top with yarn, and kept there several days to form it in a proper shape. Four of these parcels, or a score, is the measurement by which the platt is sold. Beginners that can make any tolerable platt, should very early use the best straw; and be told that by working up part of a straw which has a spot in it, or by dirtying the work, the value is thereby lessened very considerably, often one-half. If good straw is kept clean, tho indifferently worked up, something will be given for the platt, as it will answer for coarse bonnets; but indifferent work, with spotted dirty straw, is worth nothing. Beginners should be early and strongly impressed with the advantage of making good platt. Quality and not quantity should be attended to. The work should not be hurried through, for the sake of saying, that a yard or two more can be done in a day. A good platter can make three score a week: half that quantity may *easily* be done. Good work always will command a sale both in winter or summer; and the demand for coarse work will be much lessened.

These are the chief points to be attended to :—keeping the work clean ; selecting good straws of the same size, such as are soft, clear, and free from spots : and the platt should have a fullness, close texture, and one edge even and free from ridges.

The machines are very small. They cost 2*s.* each, and will last for many years. No. 6, 7, and 8, are the common sizes. No. 10, is used for very fine splints from large straws ; and No. 5, for small straws. This number should have a small wire.

The circumstances in favour of the split straw manufacture, are these ;—the extreme cheapness of the material, and that it is soon learnt ; as some acquire it in a few days, and none require more than six weeks teaching. Young persons of eight years of age, the infirm, the aged, the cripple, and the blind, may be thus employed. The work may be done out of doors, or in the cottage, without interfering with domestic habits or employments. It creates cleanliness. The danger to morals, by the association of numbers in a collected body, is not incurred, as the parties may work at home. The profit it affords is very ample ; a good platter can earn 10*s.* or 15*s.* a week, and an indifferent worker about a shilling a day.

18th Jan. 1803.

## No. IV.

ADVICE TO THE FOUNDLING APPRENTICES ON  
THE TERMINATION OF THEIR APPRENTICESHIPS.

*The Governors of the Foundling Hospital in London, have systematically increased their attention to the education of their children; directing it not merely to the period of childhood, but to riper years; watching over and visiting them during their apprenticeship; and, at the expiration of it, offering them rewards in case of good conduct, and giving them advice and assistance as to their future progress in life. The following is a Copy of the Instructions, which, with the signatures of the Governors present, are given to each of them when they attend the Committee at the expiration of their apprenticeships.*

As the recompense for a long period of care and attention to your maintenance, education, and introduction into life, we have now the pleasing and enviable satisfaction of beholding you entering upon your course in this world, with many very important advantages;—with a *character* to preserve,—

with the *means of supporting* yourself by your own industry,—and with *instruction and habits of life*, so to direct your conduct in your present state of existence here, as to preserve the good name and reputation which you have happily obtained, and to lay up for yourself a treasure of eternal and unfailing reward hereafter.

Few, if any, situations of life could be pointed out, so forlorn, so helpless, or so destitute of hope, as was yours, when, by the gracious intervention of Providence, the hospitable doors of this House were opened for your reception. Without a parent capable of supporting you, without a protector to whom your infant steps might be directed, you would have protracted your existence in a state of ignorance and beggary, or (an event much more probable) you must have perished in your infancy.

The Directors and Supporters of this Charity received you.—You were adopted, by baptism, into the church of CHRIST; and you were then placed, under a careful inspector, in the country; where your health and situation were frequently and anxiously examined and reported upon, and where every cause of disease and infirmity (so far at least as human care can provide) was removed, or prevented.



At the age of four or five years, when your faculties had so far advanced towards maturity as to be fitted for instruction, you were returned to these walls. The care of your religious and moral education, under the watchful eye of the Governors, was then committed to instructors, whose *kindness* and *attention* do now, and we trust ever will, impress your mind with *affection* and *gratitude*.—Happy will it be for the children of the poor in this country, when the advantages of a similar education shall be extended to *all* of them:—and most unhappy, and most ungrateful, will you prove, if, with those advantages, you do not bring forth the genuine fruits of Christian education,—PIETY,—VIRTUE,—and INDUSTRY.—

When your progress of instruction, and your period of life, had fitted you to be placed out as an apprentice, a proper situation was carefully sought for you; where the good habits, and untainted principles, of your early years might be confirmed and extended. From that to the present time, the provident care of your benefactors has been rather increased than diminished. Frequent investigations with regard to your conduct and situation, and constant and unwearied attention, on their part, to guard against any circumstance which might blight or disappoint your hopes and expectations in life,

have conducted you safely through the period of your apprenticeship.

You do *now* attend to receive that REWARD for your good conduct, and that TESTIMONIAL of it under the Seal of this Corporation, which the Governors are persuaded you are intitled to, not merely from the certificate of your master or mistress, but from their own knowledge of your conduct and behaviour, during the period of your apprenticeship. The bestowing, however, of that Reward, and the signing of that Testimonial, would afford but a small and imperfect mark of the interest which they take in your welfare, without the addition of ADVICE and INSTRUCTION, with regard to your future conduct through this world, to a happier and more perfect state of existence.

It should be your FIRST OBJECT in life, to have *a conscience void of offence towards God, and towards man*;—your second, *to maintain and support yourself* by your own industry and exertions; and to preserve, by *decency, civility, and propriety of behaviour*, that unblemished character, which you are, at present, so fortunate as to possess.

As to your primary and *your pre-eminent duty*, we exhort you always to bear in mind, that, in this world of trial, if God be for us, we need not mind

what *man* shall say, or attempt to do, against us.— If HE is our protector, we may pass with security and peace through the valley of the shadow of death, and through every scene of danger or difficulty. If, on the contrary, HE casts us off, we have no other power to look to for succour and protection.—To HIM, therefore, address yourself, *in fervent and frequent prayer*, not only in the church, but in your chamber; and look to him with *faith*, knowing that his mercy never was withheld from those, who sought him with piety and humility, and who relied on his protection.

If you are duly impressed with your duty to GOD, you will never fail in the performance of your duty to your *neighbour*. He who loveth GOD, will love his *brother* also:—and he who is obedient to the Divine Commands, will possess HONESTY, SOBRIETY, INDUSTRY, PRUDENCE, KINDNESS, and FORBEARANCE; virtues, which are not only essential to your duty to GOD and to your *neighbour*,—but, as we shall endeavour to explain to you, of the most important and immediate consequence to your present welfare here, as well as to your eternal happiness hereafter.

Without HONESTY, which includes a strict adherence to TRUTH, you must not only relinquish the hope of thriving and being successful in your

station of life, but you must look forward to *disgrace* and *punishment*, and probably to an ignominious end.—THE MOST ABANDONED VILLAIN NEVER BEGAN HIS CAREER WITH ATROCIOUS CRIMES.—It is from petty and uncorrected habits of pilfering and falsehood,—it is from allowing our wandering desires to covet some little portion of our neighbour's goods,—and then attempting to avoid detection by falsehood or prevarication,—that the foundation of principle in the human heart is corrupted and undermined,—the impression of religious and moral habits gradually effaced,—and the hardened and abandoned criminal, at length, left to expiate, *by a public and ignominious death*, the crimes which he has perpetrated against his fellow-creatures.

The blessing of *honesty* (like that of every other virtue) returns with accumulated advantage to the possessor: the influence, however, is directed, in its more immediate effect, to others.—SOBRIETY, the virtue which we have next to observe upon, is an act of *self-preservation*; and looks almost exclusively to our own health and happiness. In its more enlarged sense, it includes an *abstinence from every personal irregularity of conduct*; and, among other irregularities, from that, against which, with your early instruction and subsequent habits, we



trust it will be unnecessary to forewarn you. We mean that vice, which in young men leads them into improper and criminal connections, and in women is generally attended with every species of degraded and prostituted\* depravity. Of the victims of unregulated passions, you will find a melancholy list in the annals of Newgate, and you will see many wretched females in the public streets.

\* The preserving and educating of so many children, which without the Foundling Hospital would have been lost to that society of which they are calculated to become useful members, is certainly a great and public benefit. The adoption of an helpless unprotected infant, the watching over its progress to maturity, and the fitting it to be useful to itself and others here, and to attain eternal happiness hereafter,—these are no common or ordinary acts of beneficence;—but their value and their importance are lost, when compared with the benefits which (without any prejudice to the original objects of the charity) the mothers derive from this institution as it is at present conducted. The preserving the mere vital functions of an infant cannot be put in competition with saving from vice, misery, and infamy, a young woman, in the bloom of life, whose crime may have been a *single* and solitary act of indiscretion. Many extraordinary cases of repentance, followed by restoration to peace comfort and reputation, have come within the knowledge of the writer of this note. Some cases have occurred, within his own observation, of wives happily placed; the mothers of thriving families, who, but for the saving aid of this institution, might have become the most noxious and abandoned prostitutes. Very rare are the instances,—none has come within notice,—of a woman relieved by the Foundling Hospital, and not thereby preserved from a course of prostitution. B. 31st Dec. 1803.



Happily for you, we repeat, with early religious instruction, and with subsequent care and good habits, you have hitherto been preserved, through a period, when youth and inexperience are most endangered.—May the DIVINE MERCY still preserve and protect you!

In its limited sense, SOBRIETY means an abstinence from the intemperate use of spirituous liquors.—From the miserable and disgusting examples, which this great metropolis affords, let us warn you—and let us intreat you—to avoid with abhorrence, the destructive and abominable sin of *dram-drinking*. Every indulgence in this vice,—however trivial, however venial, such indulgence may appear *at first*,—leads, through hopeless misery, to the gates of death.—That which commenced in accident, or in thoughtlessness, is soon confirmed by habit, and called for by the cravings of disease. The wretched victim feels no relief, but from the increase of the poisonous draught; and sinks by painful but hastened steps to his grave,—with this melancholy truth inscribed on his mind, if any religious impression yet remains, that *the drunkard shall not inherit the kingdom of God*.

From these destructive vices, it will be some relief to direct your attention to the delightful effects

of INDUSTRY, and of those kindred virtues, on which we shall have next to observe.—If you are *industrious*, you will be useful to yourself,—to your friends,—to the community at large;—you will escape the seduction of bad company;—you will avoid many temptations, to which the idle and unoccupied are necessarily subjected. Instead of being a burthen and incumbrance to others, you will, by your diligence, not only obtain a provision for yourself and for your own immediate connections,—but you may be enabled (as you ought to do, if in your power) to set apart, every week, something for the relief and comfort of the unfortunate and necessitous.

It has been observed, that *vices* are seldom found single; but that VIRTUES go always together. They are social, not solitary, in their nature. *Honesty, sobriety, and industry*, excellent and praiseworthy as they are, appear but with diminished lustre, unless accompanied by their sister virtue—PRUDENCE. To enable you to reap and enjoy the fruits of your exertions, *prospective prudence*, which regards future welfare and satisfaction in preference to present indulgence and gratification, must direct your conduct. Without it, your other good qualities will fail of the object of attainment.—In some foreign countries, where the

power of the few, or the violence of the many, destroys the security of property, the industrious have but little encouragement to lay up the produce of their labour. But in our own free and well-regulated government, the law holds out equal and certain protection to all: every individual is secured in the enjoyment of the fruits of his own diligence and application.—Those, whom we see in the possession of wealth and affluence, are not exclusively, nor even the greater part of them, persons who derive their fortunes from their ancestors. They have mostly acquired them by their own industry. And, where the case is otherwise (whatever may have been accumulated by careful and thriving parents) if their children are thoughtless, idle, and extravagant, riches will soon make them wings, and fly away.—Look to the acting Governors of this GREAT AND USEFUL CHARITY, under whose protection you have securely passed the preceding period of your life. You will find that most of them owe their affluence and independence to their own exertions and attentions. As to many of them (for some we can speak from self-experience) powerful facts may be stated, in confirmation of our assertion, and as inducements and incentives to your industry and application.—It may be enough to remind you, that, with the blessing

of God, you may, by attention and prudence, make the same use as they have done of the advantages, which a good education has afforded you.

With regard to KINDNESS and FORBEARANCE, it is your duty to reflect, that, to the *benevolence* of those who first received you into this House, you owe the comforts and advantages, which you at present possess; and that to the MERCY OF GOD, and to that alone, you must look for all your future hopes and happiness,—here, and hereafter.—It will therefore, we hope, be unnecessary to impress on your mind (instructed as you have been in the principles of our religion) the CHRISTIAN DUTY of cultivating these amiable and excellent virtues,—*and of forgiving, as you hope to be forgiven.* We shall therefore conclude, by intreating you to be PIOUS AND HUMBLE,—to be HONEST, SOBER, INDUSTRIOUS, PRUDENT, KIND-HEARTED, AND FORBEARING.—These are the qualities, by which we call on you, to testify your gratitude to your benefactors.—PROSPER, THRIVE, AND BE USEFUL IN THE WORLD.—BE VIRTUOUS.—BE HAPPY.—And we shall thereby receive an abundant reward for every care and attention, which we have bestowed upon you.

27th April, 1803.



## No. V.

COPY OF THE REGULATIONS OF THE SOCIETY  
IN WEST-STREET, CALLED *THE FREE-  
CHAPEL BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.*

*Some account has been already given in the Reports of the West Street Society for the relief of their Poor Neighbours in distress. The union of a number of Poor Persons for the express and single object of Charity, is in itself so novel, and yet upon experiment the measure is so practicable, that I trust the Reader may wish to peruse a Copy of their Regulations. I am sanguine enough to hope that these Regulations, with the Plan, may be adopted in other places : in places, where the formation of such a Society may be more easy, and its effects not less beneficial, than in the centre of the neighbourhood of St. Giles.*

1. A COMMITTEE of twelve persons shall be appointed annually, to manage the affairs of the society. The said committee to choose their treasurer and secretary.—2. The committee to appoint visitors



to examine into the state of all cases recommended to the notice of the society ; great care to be taken that such visitors be persons of unblemished character, capable of giving plain religious instruction to those they visit ; particularly in the three grand articles, of the necessity of REPENTANCE in consequence of natural corruption and actual transgressions—FAITH in the LORD JESUS CHRIST, as the only way of salvation—and HOLINESS OF LIFE, as an evidence of that faith.\*—3. The committee and visitors to meet once a week, at such time and place as they may resolve on, to settle the weekly accounts, and receive recommendations.—4. That proper books be provided and regular entries made of receipts and disbursements, and a description of the cases visited, &c. ; which books shall be open to the inspection of the subscribers and public.—

\* The reader, perhaps, may wish to see an extract from Mr. Gurney's address to the poor upon this occasion, as shewing the disinterested principles, on which the poor inhabitants of St. Giles's were, in this instance, united.—“ In using our efforts to relieve these temporal afflictions, we have an important design, as a leading PRINCIPLE ; which is, to instruct the ignorant, to exhort the careless, to comfort the feeble-minded, and to glorify GOD in all things. Let it be clearly understood that this is *not a Benefit Society*—no person having any claim upon the funds, except what arises from their real distress and affliction. No person undertaking any charge in the execution of this plan, having any view to secular advantage.” 30 Jan. 1804.

5. No person to be visited or relieved but by an order from one or more of the committee.—6. The visitors shall recommend cleanliness to those they visit, and free circulation of fresh air ; and where there are children, they shall be sent to the sunday school.—7. In order to regulate the portion of assistance, persons recommending objects shall be required to give a true and particular account of the means they possess to help themselves from any other charity or source.—8. That each visitor shall have a certain number of cases appointed him weekly ; and, in case of any sudden call, shall be ready to visit that also by an intimation from one of the committee.—9. That the society shall annually subscribe to some one dispensary, or more, in order that they may have an easy way of helping the diseased.—10. That no person shall be relieved by this society who is not recommended by a subscriber.—11. That any person being a subscriber to any dispensary or hospital, who shall devote his or her letters to the use of this society, shall be considered as a subscriber to the society, and have the privilege of recommending cases of distress.—12. That an annual charity sermon shall be preached in aid of the funds of this society, in any church or chapel that can be procured, the free chapel only excepted.—13. That two of the

committee shall take upon them to assist the secretary in turn, every week, in receiving the subscriptions. —14. That one-third of the weekly income shall be reserved during summer, for the increasing exigencies of winter.

*1st May, 1803.*

## No. VI.

STATEMENT AS TO THE RECEPTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CHILDREN, IN THE  
FOUNDLING HOSPITAL, AT LONDON.

*The following Paper respecting the mode of reception and management of the Children in the Foundling Hospital at London, was prepared at the desire of some of the Governors of the Dublin Foundling Hospital. As it contains information applicable to the conduct of other Charities, it is inserted here.*

THE age of the children admitted into the Foundling Hospital at London, is generally under two months. The period limited for their reception is that of twelve months; beyond which very few are ever received, the rule being adhered to without any exception; except that of orphans of soldiers and sailors, under five years of age; and a very few cases of peculiar distress, which have been deemed to have extraordinary claims on the funds of the charity.

Children are admitted into the hospital upon the

mothers' petition. The cases of admission are generally those of young women, whose prior character and conduct have been unexceptionable; but who have fallen victims to the arts, or promises, of the seducer. Their sincere penitence, the prospect of their re-establishment in virtue and industry by the concealment of their shame, and the circumstance of the death of the father, or his escape beyond the reach of justice, are the chief objects of investigation. If, upon these circumstances being examined into and the facts ascertained, the case is approved, the order is made for admission the day before the next public baptism; which takes place on a sunday, once a month, or in six weeks, whenever there are eight or ten children ordered for admittance.

The children are brought into the hospital on Saturday at noon; a sufficient number of wet-nurses having been sent up by the country inspectors, to take the care of them. They are publicly baptized during the evening service the next day (some of the governors and their ladies attending as sponsors) and are sent off, in a kind of caravan, to one of the district inspectors, early on Monday morning.

With regard to the comparative mortality of the Foundling Hospital, at London, great injustice has



been done to its general character, by deductions drawn from the returns, made during the period of general reception, between 1756, and 1760; when the dying and the dead were frequently placed in the same basket, at the hospital gate,—the object being sometimes merely to secure a *gratuitous* interment. The list of deaths within the hospital since that time, will furnish a very different account. The proportion of mortality in these infants, from that period, was one in four;—more recently, one in six; and lately, under that proportion.

The district inspectors place the children under the care of nurses in their immediate neighbourhoods; generally the same women, as attend in town to receive them. The nurses are allowed 3s. a week for each child; but they are not permitted to have more than one wet-nurse child at once; and where the nurses are unsuccessful as to the life or health of the children, they are not further employed: there being a regulation, that no woman, who has lost two children of the hospital, shall have another child intrusted to her care, without an express order of the general committee.

They are, while at nurse, frequently visited by the inspector, and occasionally by an apothecary, who, for that purpose, has a small allowance for each child. A person is sent from the hospital

twice a year (without notice) to visit all the children of each inspection ; and to make a written report, as to the state of the health and condition of each child ; which is read at the committee, and entered in a book kept for that purpose.

At four years of age, the children are returned to the hospital, and are placed in the schools ; where at first they learn little more than to read, knit, and to be orderly and quiet. They continue under the care of the masters and mistresses, and under the inspection of the governors, until thirteen or fourteen years old ; at which time, if not sooner, application is made for them as apprentices. If no objection appears on the face of the application, it is referred for enquiry, as to the character and circumstances of the proposed master ; upon which, if the report is favourable, the order of apprenticeship is made, and the indentures are prepared and executed.

Tho no apprentice fee is paid, and tho the stipulations are in favour of the apprentice, yet the applications for these children far exceed the number of those to be placed out ; and it is sometimes the business of the committee, to decide between two or three desirable offers, which of them promises the greatest benefit to the apprentice. The advantage of there being no parental interference with the child, nor any other interference with the master,

except that of the governors, holds out a considerable inducement to propose for an apprentice : and the girls being well taught in the use of their needle, and moderately instructed in household work, and the boys being sufficiently advanced in reading, writing, and arithmetic, they become useful apprentices to many of the London shop-keepers ; a situation, to which the governors give a general preference, founded on experience. Situations in more opulent families, where several servants are kept, are seldom accepted ; and those in the country are liable to the objection of being less under the immediate view of the hospital.

Before the apprentice quits the hospital for his new service, he attends the committee ; and the chairman reads to him the instructions, and presents him with a bible and prayer book.—During the period of their apprenticeship, which continues till twenty-one years of age, it is the duty of the matron and schoolmaster to visit them occasionally, and to inform themselves of their behaviour and situation ; and to give them such advice and assistance, as may be useful to them. In this they receive occasional assistance from some of the governors. It sometimes, however, happens that, between the master and apprentice, the interference of the committee is necessary. If

it is the fault of the apprentice, the exhortation of the governors, or sometimes the punishment of a day or two confinement, will correct the evil; or, if it does not, the apprentice, if a boy, is sent to sea; or, if a girl, to some service of harder work.

But of the few cases of this kind that occur, it not unfrequently happens that the fault is with the master or mistress. Where that appears to be so, and the disadvantages are considerable, and not corrigible, measures are taken for removing the child to a more unexceptionable service; a change always acquiesced in by the master, who would be otherwise subject to a prosecution of an unpleasant nature; being instituted by persons who may be presumed to be actuated merely by motives of a public nature, and without any personal interest or resentment.

Of the Foundling apprentices, there is occasionally a general report made. The result of the last report was as follows:—that of two hundred and fifty-two apprentices from the hospital, there were one hundred and sixty-six who (it appeared) were doing well;—fifteen who had turned out ill;—twenty-seven whose conduct was not known, being in distant situations; but, however, well placed and without any complaint;—twenty-three apprenticed to their own friends; and the remainder,

being twenty-one, not exempt from blame, but requiring only judicious management.

The complaints as to apprentices have been considerably diminished, in consequence of a resolution (adopted near four years ago, and communicated to the apprentices) of presenting to such of them as shall have behaved well during their apprenticeships, a gratuity\* and a testimonial of their good conduct.

The duty which the governors had undertaken, is here concluded. They have, however, an extended gratification, in seeing their progress thro life ; and in knowing that their own care and attention has not been applied in vain. Some instances might be stated, in which their industry and good character have been rewarded by very considerable affluence and advantage in society. Most of them attain a degree of creditable independence. A few cases of a less satisfactory kind will occur in this, as well as in every other walk of life.

It should not be unnoticed, that there occur every year instances of penitent mothers who, benefiting by the concealment of their shame, have become industrious, respectable, and prosperous

\* A Copy of Advice given them, on this occasion, by the Governors, is inserted in the Appendix to this Volume, p. 38.



in life. Some have been afterwards enabled to marry decently and comfortably, and, in some instances, to the very person who was the original cause of their misfortune. Of these, several have come to the hospital to reclaim their children; which are delivered to them, if they can satisfactorily prove their ability to maintain them. They used to be restored upon the security of a bond for their maintenance; but the mode, adopted of late, is that of apprenticeship to the mothers' husband; or, if she is not married, then to some reputable householder: a mode that has been adopted, as giving a more complete remedy for the benefit and protection of the child.

22d July, 1803.

## No. VII.

*Copy of the Address sent round to the Lady-  
Subscribers, and others.*

FROM the result of the different measures, which have been adopted for the improvement of the character and condition of the Poor, it appears that those plans have been most successful, in which LADIES have taken an active part in the arrangement and execution. Their habits of life, and their exemption from political and professional engagements, give them very considerable advantages,—not merely in the detail, but in the peculiar kind of attention and interest, which subjects of this nature require.—In one very important part, that which concerns the *education* and *employment* of the Female Poor, it is most obvious that very little can be done effectually or *decorously*, without the intervention of their own sex.

It is a melancholy truth, that a very considerable part of the *profligacy* and *misery* of the lower class of females, not merely in London but

in the kingdom at large, originates in the *want of education and employment*. WOMEN are excluded from many occupations and means of life ; and in some of those, which do naturally and properly come within their sphere of action, they are grievously and unjustly intruded upon by the other sex. Besides this, they cannot, consistently with decency, or regard to character, go out in quest of general employment ; but are confined, most frequently, to a few scanty and unproductive kinds of labour.

As far as the wretched and pitiable circumstances of many of these women are occasioned by the inattention of the upper and more enlightened classes, their superiors will, in some degree, be responsible for the consequences. The efforts of individuals for the correction of this or of any other general evil will, it must be confessed, prove weak and inadequate : but it is well known that, with the advantage of the increased power of *co-operation*, there is hardly any thing which may not be gradually and securely effected ; and—with a degree of ease and to an extent of benefit, far exceeding the calculation of those, who have only contemplated the *solitary power of individual exertion*.

These are the considerations which have induced the General Committee of the "Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor," to address itself to those LADIES who have favoured the Society with their Subscriptions, and to submit to them the practicability and expediency, of forming a "LADIES COMMITTEE FOR THE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OF THE FEMALE POOR."—Originating from and connected with the Society, it is conceived that it may be formed and arranged, and may be made extensively and unexceptionably useful, with very little if any trouble, expense, or difficulty.

It is not in contemplation to solicit new Subscriptions, from those LADIES who are at present Subscribers to the Society. The Proposal extends no further than (with their concurrence and approbation) to transfer from the 1st of January, 1804, their subscriptions to the forming of a new Fund, which shall be entirely under the direction of the LADIES COMMITTEE:—the Society offering the use of the committee-room, No. 190 Piccadilly, for their meetings; and proposing the continuance of the delivery of their present number of Reports, free of expense; and the supply of any

additional number, at prime cost, for additional Subscribers. The meetings of the LADIES COMMITTEE (it is presumed) need not be more than once a month; those of the sub-committees, which will consist of a few of the active members, may be held more frequently. The forming of the regulations of the Committee, the providing for similar *Ladies Committees* in the provincial towns and in the metropolis, and the election of a PATRONESS, Vice Patronesses, President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and additional members of the Committee, from among the Subscribers, will be done most conveniently by a *Primary Committee*; which, it is suggested, may be named by the General Committee of the Society; upon the recommendation of those LADIES, who may have the goodness to take a directing part, in the arrangement and execution of the plan. In the LADIES COMMITTEE so formed, the future regulations and elections will be properly and permanently vested; the qualification for a Member of the Committee being the subscription of one annual guinea or upwards, or of ten guineas or upwards in one sum.

The proposed objects of the LADIES COM-



MITTEE will be the promoting of MORAL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, and the supplying of HEALTHFUL DOMESTIC EMPLOYMENT, for the Female Poor of England.—As to the first of these, it is not easy to estimate how much may be done on such a scale, by *attention, assistance, and encouragement*; — all co-operating to promote the establishment of Female Schools, in places where they are wanted; and, where they are already established, to render them as extensively, impartially, and unexceptionably useful as may be.

With regard to the second object,—the supply of healthful domestic Employment for the Female Poor,—the LADIES COMMITTEE will have it in their power to do much, by furnishing the poor with *Instruction and Information* adapted to the local circumstances of the different parts of England;—so as to point out the cheapest mode of obtaining good materials,—the most advantageous method of making them up,—and the best and most certain markets for their work. The LADIES COMMITTEE will also be induced, from time to time, to take under their consideration, how far, individually or collectively, by *example* or by *influence*, they can properly and effectually

promote the use and sale of those articles, which may be manufactured by cottagers' wives and daughters at home, and without withdrawing them from their habitations, or preventing a regular attention to their families and domestic concerns.

A variety of interesting occupation will progressively attract the attention of the LADIES COMMITTEE, as they extend their scope of benevolence. Much of the injury, which the Female Poor suffer by being precluded from several kinds of occupation, and by being interfered with in other employments, would be speedily and effectually removed. Many of the difficulties which attend their getting work, and a great part of the impositions to which they are compelled to submit in the disposal of the produce of their industry, will be soon done away, when they shall have the advantage of the protection and influence of a COMMITTEE, consisting of some of the most elevated and enlightened of their own sex.

These suggestions are submitted by the General Committee of the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor, in the hope that the LADIES, who have hitherto subscribed to

their funds, will so far think the proposal worthy of attention, as to signify to them, or to their Secretary, whether it is, or is not, favoured with their approbation ;—an approbation, which may be of very important service, in giving effect and success to the plan. It may be proper to observe, that their favourable answer will not imply any engagement to take a laborious, or even an active part in the proposed Committee ; or promise any attendance, except so far as inclination and convenience may hereafter permit.

### No. VIII.

#### *Detail of some of the proposed Objects of the Ladies Committee.*

#### I. THE FORMING OF SIMILAR COMMITTEES IN PROVINCIAL TOWNS, AND IN THE ME- TROPOLIS.

THE LADIES COMMITTEE to name the Presidents of the District Committees, from among those Ladies who are subscribers to their funds, and who consent to the appointment.

The Members of the Ladies Committee to be

admitted as visiting Members of the District Committees.

Ladies, appointed Presidents, to form their own local Committees, and name their own Vice-Presidents, out of subscribers in their respective districts, of any sum amounting to half a guinea a year, or upwards; which they are to receive and transmit yearly to the Treasurer of the Ladies Committee.

Every such subscriber to be entitled for each half-guinea subscribed, to one copy of the Reports, &c. of the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor;

Also to have a supply, for distribution to their female neighbours, of all such papers as the Ladies Committee shall print for the information and instruction of the Female Poor;

And to have, out of the general fund, pecuniary or other assistance for schools, &c. so far as the Ladies Committee may find it expedient, and consistent with their other objects.

## II. THE PROMOTING OF THE MORAL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OF THE FEMALE POOR.

The Ladies Committee to ascertain, through the District Committees and by other means,

the present state of Female Education in the different parts of England ;

And, in concurrence with the District Committees, to endeavour to increase the general scope and utility of the Female Schools, which are already established.

And also to encourage and assist the establishment of Female Schools in those parts of England, where there are not already any such Schools provided.

The Ladies Committee also to recommend proper books of instruction ; and to point out the best mode of teaching the children, and of managing the schools.

These recommendations and directions to be circulated by means of the District Committees.

### III. THE SUPPLY OF HEALTHFUL DOMESTIC EMPLOYMENT FOR THE FEMALE POOR.

The Ladies Committee to distribute printed information as to the best and most profitable manner in which Females may be employed : as to

1st. The kind of occupation ; 2d. The certainty of regular employment ; 3d. The best



means of purchasing materials ; 4th. The most useful and profitable manner of working them up ; and, 5th. The surest and most certain markets for their work.

To endeavour by influence and example to direct the *modes* and *fashions* of the metropolis, and of other places dependent on it, so as to promote the sale and use of those articles, which may be manufactured by the female poor *at home*.

To ascertain what are the occupations in which the other sex is preferred, and improperly employed, in exclusion, or to the prejudice, of females.

Under this head to enquire how far all, or any part of, the business of milliners, haberdashers, stay-makers, ladies shoe-makers, or other persons employed in any article of female attire, can be more properly conducted by females only ;

Likewise, how far the employment of men, either as instructors in boarding schools, or as masters of Schools where girls are educated, or in any other branch of female education, is injurious to the *decency* and *character* of the female sex, or prejudicial to the employment

and means of life that may be provided for them.

And also, what are the kinds of instruction in female boarding schools, such as writing, reading, music, drawing, dancing, and languages, in which women may be able to fill the duties of the situation as properly as men.

To form (according to the the establishment of the Church of England) a seminary for the purpose of educating, on fixed and moderate terms, the unprovided daughters of *Clergymen*, *Officers*, and others ; so as to enable them to act as teachers, governesses, and instructresses, in private families, and in female boarding schools.

To endeavour, not only as a committee, but individually (so far as without injustice or impropriety it may be done) to give the female poor every advantage, of being peculiarly and exclusively employed and protected by their own sex.

To circulate information among the District Committees, as to the best and most effectual manner in which they, and the Ladies of the neighbourhood may encourage industry and prudence, and improve the character and condition, of their female poor.

#### IV. THE FORM AND MANNER IN WHICH THE BUSINESS OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL BE CONDUCTED.

It is presumed that the meetings of the Ladies Committee need not be more frequent than once a month ; unless in some particular cases, by adjournment, or upon special summons.

That at each monthly meeting, a Sub-Committee be appointed, or renewed, which shall attend once a week, or oftener if they find it expedient, to prepare and arrange the ordinary business of the Committee.

That there be annually elected a Treasurer and Secretary, out of those Ladies of the Committee, who can in general give a regular attendance on the monthly meetings.

And that, on account of the correspondence of the District Committees, there be also elected annually out of the same Ladies, two or more Assistant Secretaries.

That no matter be finally decided upon in the Ladies Committee, except upon a Report of the Sub-Committee, or in consequence of a resolution of a preceding meeting of the Ladies Committee.

That the election of the President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and other members of the Committee, be at first in the Primary Committee; and afterwards in the Ladies Committee, when it shall be formed.

That the power of making rules and regulations be at first in the Primary Committee; and, from the time that such Committee shall declare itself, conjointly with the additional members which they shall have elected, a LADIES COMMITTEE, then in such Ladies Committee, subject, however, in all cases to HER MAJESTY'S approbation.

Ladies, who are members of the Committee, are requested regularly to attend the monthly meetings of the Committee, while they are in town and their convenience permits.

## No. IX.

*Outline of proposed Regulations of School, with  
Notes and Observations.*

*In the formation of a seminary for the Education  
of Female Teachers and Governesses, the  
first object will be to provide sufficient Funds.  
With this view, it may be proper to observe*

*upon the manner, in which such a seminary should be conducted, in order to its being unexceptionably useful.—It is conceived that the diet of the House should be simple and plain, the dress of the Pupils cheap and devoid of ornament, and the general system of the establishment, strictly economical. In looking to consequences and effects, profusion, or even what may be termed Liberality, will be as hostile to the hopes and expectations of the Pupils, as to the success of the Institution. In the second place, young women, from the age of twelve to eighteen, are capable of doing a great deal for themselves; and to these Pupils, in their peculiar walk of life, the talent of being always very useful, is an important and enviable acquisition. It is therefore suggested that the care of their own apartments may rest with the Pupils during the first year: and that a considerable part of the instruction of the other Pupils shall be supplied by them during their second year.—Thirdly, as the establishment of the Ladies Committee will have an obvious and necessary tendency to meliorate the situation of Female Teachers of Music, Dancing, Drawing, Languages, &c. and as their assistance in this School may lead to their being advantageously*



*employed in other places, it is not too much to expect that offers will be made by Instructresses of the first abilities;—in some instances gratuitously, and in others at a very reduced price.—And lastly, as it will be expedient, before any Pupil is admitted, that it should be ascertained that she has been religiously educated, and has been well instructed in reading, writing, accounts, and plain work, this will not only increase the advantage and progress of Pupils in the Schools, but will have a general effect in encouraging female education.—With these premises, it is submitted that, whenever a fund is provided as a foundation for the Institution, and the utility and practicability of the measure is at all ascertained and admitted, additions may be expected from donations, legacies, and other adventitious aids, the liberal supply of which forms a peculiar feature in the British character. The original funds for this Charity are calculated to arise from the annual Subscription of Five Guineas a year for each nomination, and the payment of £30. on a pupil's admission; making about £21. a year for each pupil. What more will be wanted may reasonably be expected from contingent donations.*

1. THE School to be under the direction of Five Ladies, appointed, or renewed, by the

Monthly Meeting of the LADIES COMMITTEE, and to be conducted with a regular attention to economy.

2. Females named for admission, to produce a certificate of their being Protestants of the established church, religiously educated, and from twelve to sixteen years of age; and instructed in reading, writing, accounts, and plain-work.

3. The Committee (when satisfied as to the truth of the certificate) may admit the person so named, as a pupil; to be boarded, clothed, and taught, during two years.

4. The pupils to be perfected in reading writing, and arithmetic; and to be instructed in the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, and in geography, history, grammar, &c.; so as to be fitted as governesses,\* or as teachers of Female Schools.

5. Female teachers to be engaged by the School Committee, for the instruction of the pupils in the School.

\* This School will be very beneficial to young women, otherwise unprovided for: but it will be quite as useful to mothers; who may from such a School select governesses for their children, whose early history they may know from satisfactory information, and whose conduct and deportment they may ascertain, during two years of discipline and trial, by personal knowledge and observation.

6. A cook, and one other maid servant, to be hired; but the care of the pupils' apartments to rest with those pupils, who have not been more than a year in the School.

7. The making of their clothing, and of the house linen, and the sempstress work of furniture, &c. to be also done by the pupils.

8. A mistress\* to be engaged, who shall have the care of the School, under the School Committee.

9. The five head girls of the school to act as under mistresses, and the five next as assistants.

10. The nomination of pupils to be vested successively in the Annual Subscribers to the School, and the priority of nomination to be determined by lot.

11. Five pupils to be admitted the first quarter, and five every quarter day after.

12. The nomination of pupils to be vested in Subscribers of five guineas a year, or upwards; but any two or more Subscribers of sums

\* The selection of a proper mistress will be very important, and will require the most attention, of any part of the plan; there being so many persons, to whom the appointment may be convenient, and so very few who by habit, talent, and character, are completely adapted to the situation. If however the difficulty can be surmounted, it must be by such characters as form the Primary Committee.

amounting together to five guineas, may unite their Subscriptions for the nomination of a pupil.

13. Upon admission of any pupil, the sum of £30.\* to be paid towards the expense of her board, &c.

14. The pupils to be recommended to situations† according to their respective progress in the School, and their respective merits and fitness for the situations.

15. As the pupils may sometimes become fit for, and obtain, situations before the end of their second year,‡ the School Committee may

\* It would be a matter of no difficulty to form a contingent fund for defraying, in certain peculiar cases of the daughters of officers or clergymen, a part, or even sometimes the whole, of their admission payment. The amount of this contribution would depend upon the extent of the fund, and the peculiarity of the circumstances; and being an extraordinary act, the case should be subjected to a strict examination.

† These, and other regulations respecting the mode of recommendation of pupils to situations in some very favourable cases, and the dismissal of them in cases of misbehaviour before the two years are expired, the providing of a day school for extending the benefits of instruction, and thereby employing and giving additional instruction to some of the pupils whose two years are expired, the providing in some cases by a prolonged instruction, and the inviting of the co-operation of some of the most approved boarding schools, towards the furtherance of these objects, will remain at present, for the consideration of the Ladies Committee.

‡ It cannot be expected that in all respects, and in every

in such case allow each such pupil, towards her clothing, &c. one guinea for every remaining month of her second year.

16. When it shall happen that any other pupil shall not have obtained a situation at or before the end of her second year,\* any such pupil may (if the Committee thinks fit) occupy the place of a pupil, who shall have so quitted before her second year is expired, and may

instance, these young women should, in the time proposed, be completely or perfectly taught; or that all of them, without exception, should succeed in their proposed line of life. But, let it be remembered, we are not talking of *perfection*, but of *improvement*. To those, who have not been in the habit of distributing their time, so as that *every hour may bring its employment, and every employment have its hour*, it will not be easy to shew, how much instruction may be brought within the compass of two years; or how powerful will be the stimulus for improvement, within the allotted time, to those who see the success or failure of others depending entirely on their exertions; and who know that all the shade and colour of their future life, all their hope and expectation of advancement, must depend on their present diligence and attention. With such inducement, two years of instruction, the latter part improved by daily habits of instructing, may supply a readiness of manner, and a degree of fitness for the employment, which, in the young women now engaged, can hardly be expected.

\* Where young women may not have answered to expectation, as governesses or teachers, still the advantage they have had in the School may make them very useful, as book-keepers and accomptants in milliners and haberdashers shops, and in other similar situations.



continue in the School till further order, her friends paying for her a guinea a month.

17. In case any pupil shall be dismissed the School for misbehaviour, or for any other cause, there shall be allowed to the person, who made the original payment for her, a guinea for each month of the unexpired time of her original term of two years.

18. Upon every admission, an undertaking shall be signed by the friends of the pupil, for receiving her home again at the end of two years, or whenever she shall be dismissed the School.

19. The dismissal of pupils for misbehaviour, or for any other cause, shall be at the discretion of the School Committee; but such dismissal shall not be final and conclusive, until confirmed by the Ladies Committee.

20. Enquiries shall be made from time to time how far any Boarding Schools, which are approved by the Ladies Committee, may be able and willing to co-operate in promoting the objects of the School, by taking some of the pupils, or other young women, on very moderate terms, for instruction as Teachers or Governesses.

## No. X.

*Copy of the Agreement, signed by the Parents of the Children, learning the Straw Platt, in the West-street Schools.*

*In any schools that may be opened for employing children in the Straw Platt, it would not only be inconvenient to the school but prejudicial to the scholars themselves, if, when they have nearly or quite learnt the work, they are to be open to any offer of a trifling increase of price, and to quit the establishment, as soon as they can make another engagement, that appears to them to be more profitable. In the Fincham School several instances have occurred of children having quitted it, on account of temptations held out to them and their parents, of a higher price for their work; and in most instances the children have again solicited, and not without success, their re-admission into the school.—To guard against this inconvenience, the following agreement was prepared for the schools in West-street. In the*

*hope that it may be useful in other similar schools, it is submitted to the consideration of the reader.*

WE the undersigned, whose children have been admitted into the Free School in West-street, Seven Dials, are desirous that our children in the school should have the benefit of learning the platting of split straw, the profit whereof, it is said, may amount to six shillings a month or more; and we do hereby agree that their earnings by the split straw platt shall be applied—first, to pay the one shilling a month to be allowed for their schooling, and in addition to it three-pence a week more for the extra expense of the manufacture; and we further agree that the rest of their earnings (after deducting any thing that may be expended for them by their own desire in clothing) be laid up and reserved for the following purpose, viz. that if the child continues in the school until the age of fourteen years, the whole amount of its earnings, with the parent's consent, be applied in clothing and placing out such child, or otherwise for its benefit, at the discretion of the Committee. But if the child

quits the school or dies before the age of fourteen, then the earnings (except as to any part which the Committee may think proper to give to the child, or to the child's parents) are to go to the maintenance and support of the school. In case, however, any of the children, or their parents, shall be desirous that any of the children shall learn to write, and the Committee shall approve thereof, then the further sum of three-pence a week shall be deducted from the earnings of each child, so learning to write.

*March 21st, 1804.*

## No. XI.

*A Commission Warehouse has been opened on the 4th of June 1804, at the request of the Society, by Messrs. Corston and Shackle, Ludgate Hill, for the sale of Straw Platt manufactured in schools, or by cottagers or others, who may not otherwise have advantageous means of disposing thereof. The terms are as follows :*

1. **P**ERSONS sending in straw-platt to the commission warehouse for sale, are to transmit with it a bill of parcels, the name of the school where, or of the persons by whom, made ; and of the banker to whom, and the person to whose account, when the article is sold, the produce shall be paid.

2. When any article is sent into the warehouse, an entry thereof shall be fairly made in the day-book, and the goods shall be prized by Messrs. Corston and Shackle: the price thereof, and the time and place when and where it was made, shall be marked on each article,



for the inspection of customers and others, visiting the warehouse.

3. A receipt for such straw platt shall be given to the person delivering it, in the following form: "Received of A. B.

" score of straw platt, prized at                      per  
 " score; the produce from the sale thereof,  
 " after deducting a commission of ten per cent.  
 " to be paid to                      to the  
 " account of                      ."

4. Whenever the article shall have been sold, the price received, and the day of sale, and the name of the purchaser, and when and where the money has been paid, shall be marked in the day-book, opposite to the original entry.

5. If any person shall send in straw platt, not to be sold under a certain price, it shall be optional\* for Messrs. Corston and Shackle to refuse it, or to receive it under the condition.

6. Messrs. Corston and Shackle are to have a commission of ten per cent. on all articles sold at the warehouse; but no other charge whatever is to be made.

\* Persons bringing straw platt to the warehouse, are requested to ascertain, before they leave the article, that the appraised price is such as they would wish to receive for it.

7. No article shall be sold but for ready money only ; and the money received (after a deduction of ten per cent.) shall be paid over the next day to the banker, and to the account of the person named in the receipt, according to the notice sent with the goods.

8. The articles shall be sent to the commission warehouse, free of all expense ; and no extra charge shall be afterwards made for warehouse room, extra trouble, insurance, or otherwise howsoever.

9. The sum of nine hundred pounds shall be insured by Messrs. Corston and Shackle, on the articles in the commission warehouse, at the expense of the Society for bettering the Condition of the poor ; and, in case of damage or loss by fire, the same shall be made good, rateably and proportionably, out of the money received.

10. A fair extract, or report from the day-book, shall be from time to time laid before the Committee for bettering the Condition of the Poor ; setting forth the goods received, and sold, since the last extract or report.

11. The Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor shall pay the premium of the aforesaid insurance, and also such expenses as they

shall think fit to incur for advertisements, or otherwise, respecting the commission warehouse ; but the Society shall have no concern whatever with the profit or loss, responsibility or transactions, of the commission warehouse, or of any person or persons employed therein.

12. In cases where it may appear to be of material advantage to the poor, an advance will be made by order of the Society, at five per cent. interest, of a sum not exceeding two-thirds of the value of the articles, as prized by Messrs. Corston and Shackle. This (which will be merely discretionary in the Society, and is to be repaid upon the sale of the goods) will be provided for out of the funds of the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor.

*4th June 1804.*

## No. XII.

*Copy of a Proposal for an Enquiry into the present state of the Schools for the Education of the Poor.*

IN order to the extension of a general system of religious and moral education among the poor, it is submitted that a previous enquiry into the present state of charity and other schools will be requisite, in order to ascertain,

1. The places in which those schools are entirely adequate to the object ;
2. The places where a greater extension of their benefits is wanted, and such extension is practicable ; and
3. Those where new schools for the poor are necessary or expedient.

For this purpose it is proposed, that (with exception of the great classical schools, and of private seminaries receiving no support from charitable foundation, public aid, or private subscription) a parliamentary return be made

from all the charity schools\* in the united kingdom, under the following heads :

1. The nature and amount of their respective income, annual or contingent, and arising from fines or otherwise, for five years last past.

2. The average number of children educated in each of the said schools during the five last years ; specifying the number of those children which have been clothed, and those which have been not only clothed but boarded.

\* This would make a valuable supplement to the returns very recently made under Mr. Rose's Act, 43d George III.—We find by those returns, comprizing very nearly the whole of England and Wales, that the number of children (*out of the workhouse*) between five years and fourteen years of age, who have been the subject of *parish relief*, is 188,794 ; whereas the number of those, who have had the benefit of *schools of industry* and receiving education, have amounted only to 20,336 ; being not so much as one-ninth of the number receiving parish relief.—The poor's rate actually returned for one year, ending Easter 1803, considerably exceeds FIVE MILLIONS STERLING. Of this, it appears by the returns, that only the sum of £10,927. 6s. 6d. has been expended in materials for employing the poor out of the workhouse ; and £38,760. 18s. 2d. in materials for employing them in the workhouse or house of industry ; two sums, which do not together amount to ONE HUNDREDTH PART of the money actually raised. The earnings of all the poor, in and out of the workhouse, amount to £87,272. 10s. ; or about one-sixtieth of the money raised for them.

4th June, 1804.



3. The dates of the respective foundations of such schools; and by whom, or in what manner, they were established.

4. The will, deed, or other regulation, by which they are governed, and where deposited, proved, or registered.

5. Whether any, or what, practicable improvement, or extension, can be safely and properly adopted, as to the beneficial effects of their respective schools.

This return may be made to the Clerk of the House of Commons: but it is conceived, that it would be better that it should be made to the Privy Council; and that the arrangement and application of the evidence to be obtained, and the report upon it, should be prepared by, or under the direction of a Special Committee of the Privy Council. The object of the report would be to point out any measures proper to be adopted for extending, either by the existing means, or by additional establishments, a proper and useful system of education for the benefit of all the lower classes.

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The education of all the children of the poor may, it is conceived, be provided for;

1. By opening the charity schools, or those established on charitable foundation, to all the original objects of the founder.

2. By engrafting on them day schools for the admission of all the other poor children of the vicinage, on limited terms; such as those adopted in West-street, Seven Dials, of three pence a week.

3. By opening parochial schools (where wanted) for admission of the children of the poor, on terms of similar limitation.

4. By official application to the Lord Chancellor, where uncorrected abuses of charity schools are continued.

5. By enabling the magistrate (in certain cases and ages when the parent is not able to pay the three pence a week for his child's schooling) to order the payment of it, as an act of parish relief.

The whole system of education in this country may be thus completed with a trifling alteration of the mode, and none of the principle of the present system, and with very little if any increase in the parochial charges.

10th Jan. 1804.

## No. XIII.

*Copy of the Statement of the progress of the Repository at Manchester for the benefit of persons reduced in their circumstances.*

THE Managers of the Manchester Repository are happy to inform the public that the utility and success of this establishment have been greatly extended since their report which was printed last May. From that period to the present time the sales made have amounted to £2,822. and more than two hundred individuals have been employed by the institution, some of whom are indebted to it for their principal support.

The object of the Repository\* is now so well understood here, that it is unnecessary to explain it to the inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood ; but it may be proper to repeat, for the information of strangers, that it is principally designed to furnish well-educated

\* See an account of this Repository in the third volume of the Reports, No. 98.

women, who have been reduced in their circumstances, with the means of earning a livelihood, without losing that station which they have hitherto maintained in society.

To accomplish this purpose, apartments have been provided, where ready-made dresses and linen, various articles of millinery, and fancy works are received, and disposed of for the benefit of the owners. Sets of child-bed linen are lent to poor lying-in women, at the recommendation of subscribers, who are responsible for their being returned clean, and in good order ; in which case, a present is made to each poor woman for the use of her child. Clothing is also sold, at reduced prices, to subscribers, for the service of poor women and children.

It is a particular object of attention with the managers, to provide the most fashionable patterns from London, for the advantage of the persons connected with this institution.

As there is always a considerable stock of goods in the Repository, and proper measures are adopted for enabling the superintendant to get articles, wanted in haste, made at a short notice, the public may be assured that their orders will be executed with dispatch and punctuality. The managers have scrupulously and

invariably adhered to their resolution of permitting no goods to be offered to sale at any other than the most moderate prices, for they have been convinced that this regulation was essential to the benefit of the parties for whose advantage the establishment was originally formed. When the convenience and interests of the public are in this manner made consistent with their support of a charitable institution, and even promoted by it, the managers cannot doubt that the Manchester Repository will continue to receive the same liberal patronage which it has hitherto experienced.

Applications must be addressed to Miss Smalley, at the Repository, No. 46, Market-street lane, where subscriptions to an amount not exceeding half-a-guinea each, and benefactions, will be received as usual.

It may be proper to remind the public, that this is the period when the annual subscriptions are expected to be paid.

*Manchester, 15th April, 1804.*



## No. XIV.

*The following Observations on the Seminary for the Education of the Daughters of Clergymen, Officers, and others, to qualify them for being Governesses and Attendants on young Children, have been submitted by one of the Ladies, to the consideration of the Ladies Committee.*

IT should appear that one of the most necessary attainments for a young woman designed for such a situation, is a knowledge of the grammar of her own language, so as to speak it and write it correctly. Some pains should likewise be taken with her hand-writing, that she may be able to give lessons of writing to her pupils ; and she should be competent to teach, at least, the four first rules of arithmetic in perfection. It is also desirable that she should know something of fine work, and thoroughly understand plain work, and cutting out every part of children's dress with attention to economy. Habits of order, cleanliness, and neatness in her own person, should be strictly inculcated ; and it is to be wished that the management of children,

as far as effects their food, air, exercise, and cleanliness, should be understood by them, which may be easily learned from such books as Dr. Underwood's on the management of children.

From this class may be selected such girls as appear to have more than an ordinary capacity, who may be instructed in French, geography, and history, and *not* superficially. Some attention should be paid to form their taste for literature in general. A more extensive plan of education, comprehending music and drawing, would be attended with so much expense, and, during the short time they remain in the school, could only be acquired in so slight a degree, as to make it hardly worth the attempt; tho at the same time, should any *extraordinary* genius for either of these accomplishments be evinced by any girl, it would be deserving the future consideration of the committee how far, and in what manner, it should be encouraged.

In young women who are to be placed about children it is highly necessary to repress vanity, to give them a desire of being useful to their poor and suffering fellow creatures, and to impress on them a general humility and sobriety

of mind. It is almost superfluous to suggest that a young person, whose temper is not extremely good, or whose health is essentially bad, ought never to be intrusted with the care of children. For such as have these misfortunes in any insurmountable degree, the humanity of the Committee will naturally be excited to find other employments. From the young women educated in this school, many valuable companions to sick, infirm, or elderly persons, might be found ; and to render them still more useful in this situation, it is to be wished that they might be allowed in turns, to keep the accounts, and manage the domestic concerns of the house, under their governess, or matron. As far as possible, every thing they wear should be made by themselves ; and their dress, without being confined to any particular shape, or colour, should be humble and modest. Above all, it is essential that those who are to have the care of youth, should possess the most undeviating love of truth : the slightest appearance of prevarication, or cunning, should be held out as an object of the greatest detestation, and should be discouraged by every possible means ; while the contrary quality should be the subject of approbation. No

person who is not of a sincere and candid disposition (whatever their other merits may be), should be recommended as an attendant upon children. It appears evident, that from among the lowest class of the school, many would be found capable of undertaking the management of haberdashers and other shops, when from age, or from other causes, the proprietors were unable to attend to it themselves; and that, upon the whole, such a plan of education as is now proposed, would prove more generally useful, and would better answer the purposes of benevolence, than one higher, or more refined, in its objects and arrangements.

*5th June, 1804.*

## No. XV.

*A short View of different Proposals which have been made respecting the Poor, during the two preceding Centuries.*

THE various projects, for the management of the poor, which have been offered to the public, since the passing of the 43d of Elizabeth, have evinced the anxiety of the public mind, and the difficulty of the subject. In some catalogues, one may count above two hundred\* of these publications. It is probable

\* Many of the titles of them are curious, and declaratory of the *immediate and unfailing* certainty of the remedy. Such are, *England's Way to win Wealth*, published in 1614; *The Poore Man's Advocate, or England's Samaritan pouring Oyle and Wyne into the Wounds of the Nation*, 1649;—*A clear and evident Way for enriching the Nations of England and Ireland, and for setting very great Numbers of Poore to Work*, by J. D. 1650.—*An Appeal to Parliament, that there may not be a Beggar in England*, 1660.—*The grand Concern of England explained*; 1673.—*How to revive the GOLDEN AGE*; same year.—*Good News for the Poor*; 1674.—*The Prevention of Poverty*; same year.—*England's Improvement by Sea and Land*; 1677.—*Provision for the Poor*; 1678.—*Bread for the Poor*; same year.—*A Method of Government for working*



they may have extended to above twice that number. At present, when there exists a great and increasing desire to produce an effectual and permanent improvement in the character and situation of the labouring class, a short statement of some of the schemes and plans, which have been proposed with a view of making the poor more thriving and more happy, may be useful in directing the public attention to an object, which is now thought so desirable to attain.

The plans which are deserving of consideration may be divided into three classes:—1st, such as are calculated to invite or compel the poor to make a *prospective provision* for themselves;—2d, those which propose increase of *employment* for the poor, with instruction and inducement to make them profit by it;—3d, such as recommend the general establishment of *workhouses*, as the sure remedy for idleness, indiscretion, and immorality, among the lower orders of the community; to these might be added a fourth class of projectors, who have suggested an *increase of wages*, regu-

*Alms-Houses*; 1678.—*A Model of Government for the good of the Poor*; ditto.—*England's Wealth and Prosperity proposed, or Reasons for erecting Public Workhouses*; 1680.

*lated by the price of bread, or of bread-corn, as a remedy against the prevalence of indigence: but as this idea is very recent, and the number of those who have written in its behalf is very small, it will not be necessary to consider them separately.*

TO MAKE THE POOR PROVIDE FOR THEMSELVES.

In the first class, may be placed BARON MASERES' proposal for establishing life-  
 annuities in parishes, for the benefit Mr. Maseres' plan for annuities, 1772.  
 of the industrious poor. His scheme was that all the rateable inhabitants of every parish should constitute a corporation, with power to grant life annuities to their parishioners, estimated upon a calculation of three per cent.; and that the purchase money should be invested in the funds, to answer the payment of the annuities; the poor's rate being always liable to make good the deficiency.—This was followed by MR. ACLAND's plan in 1786, offering more advantage to the Poor, and Mr. Acland's of a general Club, 1786. proposing the formation of a general club, or society; to which every one might, and certain persons were compellable to, subscribe. The members were to receive certain

benefits in sickness, old age, and for unprovided children; and the churchwardens and overseers were to be the treasurers of the club in every parish.

For the obvious difficulty of collecting the subscriptions, and for the complicated and unmanageable magnitude of this general club, a remedy was soon after offered by MR. HAWEIS, who proposed a general plan for *compulsory friendly societies* in every parish. The employer of every poor man was to be answerable for the regular payment of a 36th or a 24th part of his earnings to a fund, which was to be aided by a payment of a shilling in the pound\* from every occupier, in lieu of the present poor-rate.—In the same year MR. TOWNSEND published his

Mr. Townsend's inducement to subscribe, 1787.

“Dissertation on the Poor Laws.” He is aware of the objection to a regular and *compulsory* subscription from the *poor* and *necessitous*. He therefore endeavours to supply them with the means of defraying their contributions, by the advantage

\* This would be insufficient in some parishes; and in some others with the labourers contributions would produce three times as much as could be wanted; particularly in such parishes as Lord Winchilsea's, where the poor have received proper encouragement for individual prudence and industry.

of parish workshops, with certain employment and pay : and he proposes to give aid and encouragement to friendly societies ; and at the same time, to make it a condition of parish relief,—that the pauper, so long as he was able, had contributed to the friendly society of his own parish.

## SECOND CLASS ; PLANS FOR EMPLOYMENT OF THE POOR.

With regard to profitable employment for the poor, the supply of it has been always an obvious remedy for the cure of indigence.

As early as the year 1615, within  
fourteen years after the 43d of Herring  
fishery.

Elizabeth, three pamphlets were published in favour of the herring fishery, as the means of employing the poor. The same object was again proposed by MR. BOURN in 1641, and by an anonymous writer in 1649 ; and that, and the woollen manufactory were re- Woollen ma-  
nufactures.  
commended in 1650 by the author

of a tract, entitled “ A clear and evident way  
“ for enriching the Natives of England and  
“ Ireland, and for setting very great numbers  
“ of people to work.” These were followed in

1673 by a pamphlet, entitled “ The grand  
 “ concern of England explained ;” in which  
 the same principle is adopted and enforced  
 by a statement of the general objection  
 to fixed pecuniary allowances to the poor, as  
 hostile to industry and prudence. The author  
 proposes\* to supply all the poor with proper  
 employment ; and when, with due diligence  
 on their part, that should prove insufficient,  
 then, and then only, to supply the deficiency  
 from the parish purse. This was  
 Manufactures of linen and iron. again recommended four years after  
 by MR. YARRANTON, in a pamphlet entitled  
 “ England’s Improvement by Sea and Land ;”  
 in which the encouragement and extension of  
 the manufactures of linen and iron are pro-  
 posed as the effectual means of supplying the  
 labouring class with regular employment.

At this time MR. FIRMIN† published his

\* In this and in some other parts of this paper I have taken my information from the “ History and State of the Poor,” Vol. I.: where the reader will find the statement more at length, and well deserving his attention.

† Mr. Firmin was a virtuous and benevolent man, but a zealous Unitarian. It is very honourable to him, and, in an age when the principles of toleration were little understood, and less practised,—it is highly honourable to Archbishop Tillotson and Bishop Fowler, that they were through life, kind and steady friends to Mr. Firmin.



Proposals for employing the Poor in and about London. They contain the detail of his establishment in the parish of Aldersgate, where he had built a workhouse for hemp and flax, and had supplied the poor\* with spinning; so as to enable them at their leisure hours to earn from three-pence to four-pence a day. The general outline of his plan was to provide the poor such work as they can do *at their own homes*; to establish industry schools; and (which he stipulated with the overseers of the parish of Aldersgate) by no means to withdraw parochial allowances from those who could be induced to work; nor to afford the parish relief to those who refused employment, and preferred begging: making this answer to those who objected the difficulty

Mr. Firmin's  
Proposals.

\* Mr. Firmin justly observes that the way to benefit the poor, “ is to provide such work for them as they may do *in their own houses*; which, tho never so mean and homely, is “ more desired than any other place; and the way which “ several persons have proposed, OF BRINGING THEM TO A “ PUBLIC WORKHOUSE WILL NEVER EFFECT THE END “ INTENDED: for, suppose a woman hath a sick husband or “ child, or some infirmity upon herself, in all such cases she “ may do something at home, but cannot leave her own house. “ And supposing that none of these should happen, yet “ not one person of twenty will endure the thoughts of “ working at a public workhouse.”

of providing materials, and disposing of articles manufactured,—that it was much better to lose a little by the industry,\* than much by the idleness of the poor.

In the year 1697, upon a reference from the Board of Trade, the great Mr. Locke's Report. LOCKE produced his "Report on the Relief and Employment of the Poor." He imputes the increase of indigence and misery, to relaxation of discipline, and corruption of manners; and concludes that half of those who are gratuitously relieved, would be able to earn the whole, or at least a moiety of their living. In addition to a strict execution of the laws against vagabonds, he recommends that, at the general cost of the hundred, working schools should be established in every parish for instruction of poor children, and that ma-

\* Mr. Firmin's plan for applying 100*l.* a year for the benefit of the parish is worthy attention. It is as follows;

Schoolmistress per annum.	-	-	-	20 <i>l.</i>
Schoolroom	-	-	-	5
Purchase of hemp and flax	-	-	-	25
Children's spinning it	-	-	-	25
Weaving it	-	-	-	15
Wheels and reels	-	-	-	8
Trustees' audit dinner	-	-	-	2

The cloth to be annually distributed in rewards to the most industrious poor of the parish.

terials should be supplied the poor, to employ them profitably at home.

For a considerable period the current of national prejudice had run in fa-  
 vour of parochial or incorporated  
 workhouses; when in 1760, the Dean of Gloucester, DR. TUCKER, published his objections to employing and maintaining the poor either in separate families, in parochial districts, or by annual overseers. He proposes that for several united parishes, corporate bodies shall be established, to provide workshops, and supply regular employment for the poor: an idea which has been further recommended by MR. TOWNSEND, in his “Dissertation on the Poor Laws;” in which he proposes the parochial establishment of these workshops with constant employment, and certain pay, for every one that should have occasion to apply.

Dr. Tucker  
 and Mr.  
 Townsend.

### THIRD CLASS ; PROPOSALS FOR WORKHOUSES.

I proceed to the third class; that of proposals for *workhouses* for the poor.

The first of these in point of time,  
 seems to have been “Stanley’s Remedy, or  
 “the way to reform wandering Beggars, &c;”

Mr. Stanley  
 in 1646.

in which he comments on the absurdity of bidding a beggar work, without being able to inform him *where* he may find work; and he, therefore, proposes the general establishment of *houses of correction and workhouses* for the poor, in every part of the kingdom.—The

Sir Josiah Child, 1668. next in order, a proposal of SIR JOSIAH CHILD, applied to the metropolis only. He had noticed the inconvenience, of the different parishes of a great city being intrusted, with the separate management of their own poor; and being induced to endeavour to shift off their idle parishioners, as beggars in other parishes: and he therefore proposed that an experiment should be made of an establishment for the management of all the poor within the bills of mortality, by a *corporation of 70 persons*, invested with the power of directing the employment of the idle, and of *transporting such of them as they shall think fit, as servants for a limited period, to his majesty's foreign plantations*.—During the

Mr. Haines 1670 to 1680. next ten years, the industry of Mr. R. HAINES had produced no less than seven publications, in favour of workhouses. His object is to recommend them, under the new title of *almshouses, or hospitals*;



and that they should be established in every county; so as that, with the advantage of spinning engines, all the beggars and paupers in the kingdom (whom he estimates at a very moderate number of one hundred thousand) might be enabled to earn *more\* than their own subsistence*; and thereby, instead of the then supposed *deficit* of an annual million, to convert indigence into a source of national revenue.—

SIR MATTHEW HALE's "Discourse touching Provision for the Poor," was published in 1683,—tho probably written before the restoration.—The learned author seems to consider the evil, in the execution of the laws respecting the poor, to be little more or less than the *want of a sufficient stock of materials* for their employment. He therefore proposes that incorporated workhouses shall be established for united parishes, the masters whereof shall be appointed by the magistrates; and that several years rates shall be levied at once, with a view of laying in a stock of

Sir Matthew  
Hale's Plan,  
1683.

\* Mr. Haines has anticipated the four great objections, that would be made to his plan;—that *the country would be cheated, the poor abused, unfit persons appointed, and justice prevented*.—These impediments will occur in a greater or less degree to all *complicated MACHINERY*, for, what has been termed, the *management* of the poor.



materials, and extending the woollen and linen manufacture to every part of the kingdom.—

Dr. Davenant's scheme  
in 1699.

The scheme which DR. DAVENANT submitted to the public in 1699, was no less than that all the poor of England should be farmed for the term of twenty-one years by ONE GREAT CORPORATION; which was to receive, annually, from every parish, the average of their rates for the seven preceeding years, being about seven hundred thousand pounds a year; and was for that consideration to undertake the maintenance and employment of all the poor of the kingdom, wherever they should be. The sum of £300,000. was to be raised by subscription, for the joint stock of the company. A revisal of the poor laws was to take place; and arbitrators were to be appointed for each county, to settle any matter in question between the several parishes and

Mr. Bellers's  
College of In-  
dustry, 1714.

the corporation.—In 1714, Mr. BELLERS offered his project for a COLLEGE OF INDUSTRY for employment of idle persons, disbanded sailors, and others who should be without occupation. Our idle poor he estimates, as a national loss of five millions a year; and considering very justly the labouring class of the kingdom as its

*greatest treasure*, he rates the specific work of every labourer duly employed, as an addition of £200. to the intrinsic value of the kingdom.

In the mean time, *incorporated workhouses* had been established in Bristol, Exeter, Hereford, and in several other towns. The attentive and upright administration of them produced, in the year 1725, a very favourable and flattering display\* of their success, in the diminution of the number of paupers, and in the reduction of the poor-rates: an account which, it is probable, in great part was true; as, independently of the greater attention paid to novel establishments, not only some solicitations on false pretences would have been withdrawn, but many aged and deserving poor might have been induced to suffer in silence, and to forego their claims to relief, rather than be *committed*, at the close of life, to a parish workhouse.—The proposal for a general system of DISTRICT WORKHOUSES was again brought forward by MR. HAY in 1735. He obtained some resolutions in the House of Commons in their favour; but nothing more was done. His plan went to the new-modelling of the

Success of  
Workhouses.

Mr. Hay's in  
1735.

\* Account of several Workhouses, &c; printed in 1725, and reprinted in 1732.

whole frame of the poor laws ; particularly in respect of the doctrine of settlements, which he proposed nearly to abolish, by giving the right of settlement to every one who had resided a year in any parish without being actually chargeable.—In 1752, Mr. ALL-  
 in 1752. cock published his “ observations on the defect of the poor laws,” in which he recommends *separate workhouses for each hundred*, and a division of the poor into classes ; and proposes a very powerful remedy for the “ incorrigible,—*that they should be transported, “ MADE SLAVES OF, or whatever else the quarter “ sessions should think proper.*”—The public  
 Earl of Hillsborough’s, attention was occupied in 1753, in 1753. with two plans respecting the poor : —the first, the EARL OF HILLSBOROUGH’S, went to the repeal of all the poor laws, and of the law of settlements and removals ; and to establish in each county a *corporation for the management of the poor*, with power to levy rates similar to those then existing. The governors were to consist of persons subscribing not less than five pounds a year each to the relief of the poor. In each county one or more hospitals were to be erected,—for unprovided children, and for the aged and infirm ; the unoccupied being supplied with work, and the

idle and dissolute, transferred to the house of correction.—The peculiar feature of the other of these plans, Sir Richard Lloyd's, 1753. SIR RICHARD LLOYD'S, is very deserving of attention; as the best corrective of one of the present inconveniences of district workhouses. It is that the several parishes of every district shall contribute *in proportion to the number of the poor*, which they shall think proper to send into the house:\* a provision, which may tend to preserve in parishes some motive to check the increase of *pauperism*; and at the same time may leave an inducement to the parish, to permit the infirm and aged to continue undisturbed in their cottages, whenever they can be maintained there with less trouble, and at less expense to the parish.

MR. FIELDING'S "Proposal for making an effectual Provision for the Poor," Mr. Fielding's Proposal, 1753. was directed to the establishment of a *County Poorhouse* for Middlesex, with a *House of Correction* attached to it. Any honest industrious person wanting work, and bringing a certificate to that effect from the churchwarden of his parish, was to be admissible into the house; and there to be employed,

\* See Reports, Vol. IV. p. 168, octavo Edition.



receiving the entire profit of his work in advance, without waiting for the sale of it; but he was not to be allowed to quit the house until he was regularly discharged, or placed out in service, for which there was a particular provision.—In a “Treatise on the  
 “better Employment, and more comfortable

Mr. Bailey’s, “Support of the Poor in Work-  
 1758.

“houses,” MR. BAILEY appears to have directed his attention to the *selection* of those *trades*, which are best adapted to those establishments. In order to encourage parochial manufactures, he proposes that the Society of Arts, of which he was a member, should annually advertise premiums for the greatest quantity and best quality of cloth, and other articles made in workhouses, and for any new and useful mode of employment

Mr. Cooper’s, introduced into them.—In 1763  
 1763.

MR. COOPER published his “Definitions and Axioms, relative to Charity, &c;,” the object of which, is to propose, that in the different hundreds or divisions of each county, there should be a building erected, which should contain, 1st. an *infirmary* for the sick, and such poor as were unable to work;—2d. a *workhouse* for those that were able and not



willing to work ; and, 3d, a *House of Correction* for such as were able, but not willing : the whole to be under the direction of the gentlemen and clergy of the respective Hundreds.

To this catalogue I have only to add Mr. GILBERT's plan ; which agrees with several of the others in recommend-

Mr. Gilbert's  
Plan, 1787.

ing a general system of district workhouses, consisting of not less than three, nor more than thirteen parishes, but differs in the mode of government. He proposes that there shall be a *Board of Commissioners* for the direction of them in each county annually appointed, and an arrangement of districts made, by the quarter sessions : each district being under the management of a district committee, having its agent for the district, and three subordinate overseers for each parish ; one of whom, selected by the district committee, should receive a salary from the parish.

Whether what has been written on this subject by DEFOE and MANDEVILLE should be left entirely unnoticed,

Defoe and  
Mandeville.

may be a matter of doubt. It is true that they offer nothing to the poor, except *neglect* and *injury* ; yet they have laboured zealously and

assiduously to impress the public mind on this important subject. The first of these writers, in his address to Parliament, published in 1704, and intitled, "*giving alms no charity, and employing the poor a grievance to the nation,*" does not merely oppose *alms giving*; but objects even to the unequivocal charity, of giving to the poor and necessitous, *employment*, and the means of labour. He says that they should be *driven by necessity* to find it for themselves; and he contends, that it would be an injury to the industrious and prudent, that the thoughtless and unoccupied should be supplied with work.

It is thus that Defoe rejected every motive of charity, and attempted to exclude age, infancy, infirmity, and calamity, from every possible claim on the sympathy of the fortunate and the rich.—But the paradoxical Mandeville went much further. He waged war, not merely with *charity*, but with *virtue* itself. He laboured to no better end, than to leave mankind a prey to vice, the poor to misery, and their children to ignorance. He strove to confound vice and virtue; to create indifference to moral rectitude; to reconcile the mind to habits of sensuality, and to destroy all repugnance and compunction that

remained in the human breast.—He might, however, have learnt from the wretched victims of dram-drinking, that *it is not true* (which he has stated), “that a moderate use of ardent spirits is of inestimable benefit to the poor;” \* or that “the stupid indolence, in the most wretched condition, occasioned by these composing draughts, is a *blessing to thousands* ;” or still more that “dram drinking cures some diseases, and prolongs the lives of many, † whom it has once agreed with.” Upon the great point of EDUCATION, his assertion, that it unfits the poor for labour, is contradicted by the history of *every country*, ‡ in which their moral and religious education has been duly attended to. And of his assertion, “that man is a compound of various passions; that all of them, as they are provoked

\* Fable of the Bees, p. 47. Ed. 1795.—I am aware that these quotations are put in the mouth of an objector. But in this, and in the second part of the work, it is evident that the author meant that the objector should have the best of the argument.

† See Dr. Willan’s Report of the dreadful effects of dram-drinking, with directions, &c. No. II. of the Appendix to Vol. IV. of the Reports. The description, tho painful and shocking, is correct and interesting.

‡ See Introductory Letter to the Third Volume of the Reports, and the Reports No. LXIV. and XCVII.

and come uppermost, govern him by turns, whether he will or no ;” \* it is impossible to suppose any other object but to give unbounded rein to appetite ; excluding from rational and responsible creatures, every idea and every wish of moral restraint.

Tho no attempt has been made, in this brief  
 sketch of the principal schemes and  
 Sir F. Eden’s History and state of the Poor. proposals respecting the poor, to  
 give more than the leading features  
 of each, yet any account of this nature would  
 be very imperfect, if it passed unnoticed SIR  
 FREDERIC EDEN’S† “ History and State of the  
 Poor ;” a book which is earnestly recommended  
 to the perusal of the reader, as useful for  
 abridging labour, and for directing enquiry.

\* Fable of the Bees, p. 12.

† It has been a principle of Sir Frederic Eden, that enquiries respecting the state of the Poor should precede any great alteration in the system ; the result of those enquiries being formed into well abstracted and perspicuous Reports : and that the establishment of a Board, the existence whereof should depend on its continuing useful, would form the best chain of communication between Parish Officers and the Legislature. The returns lately made with respect to the expense and maintenance of the poor, under Mr. Rose’s Act, contain a great deal of material information, and offer a favourable basis for such a plan of operation.

It is very honourable for him, at an early period of life, to have formed and arranged so extensive a plan, and to have so executed it, as to leave little room for the labours of others. His account of the poor, for the eight preceding centuries is such, that they, who do not seek for practical information, may be gratified with curious anecdote and interesting disquisition ; and his observations on national establishments for the poor, as applied to their diet, dress, fuel, and habitations, and to the origin and effects of friendly societies, are so arranged and diversified, that they afford entertaining novelty, while they supply useful knowledge.

B.

10 Dec. 1804.



## No. XVI.

*Address of the Ladies Committee, for promoting the education and employment of the Female Poor.*

THE Ladies Society having, in the papers circulated at the time of its formation, given a general view of the design and objects of the Institution, and having since received a variety of communications relative to their plans, think it necessary to lay before the friends of the establishment, some further general observations upon its views, and a short account of the progress which they have hitherto been able to make.

The female sex, from their natural tenderness of disposition, and their exemption from laborious occupations, have always been disposed to devote themselves, in a peculiar degree, to the relief of the sick, the afflicted, and the needy; nor are their exertions any where more general than in this kingdom, in every part of which numerous instances may be found of the most active, and most enlightened benevolence. But these exertions, however useful and valuable,

have hitherto been detached and insulated, without any communication of plans, any means of correspondence, or centre of union. It was therefore conceived, that the establishment of a society, which should have for its object, first, the collecting information respecting the female poor throughout the kingdom, and the means now adopted in various parts for their relief and improvement ; and afterwards, the general circulation of such plans and observations as appear to them most useful and interesting, might be the means of greatly facilitating the efforts of individuals, and in some instances of calling into effect those good principles, and intentions which have been inactive only from the want of proper direction, and encouragement. With this view, and for the attainment of such further objects connected with the situation and morals of the female poor, as their means might be capable of embracing, the Ladies Society was formed a few months ago, under the patronage of HER MAJESTY and THE PRINCESSES ; and their Committee proceeded to circulate printed accounts of the views of the Society, and to invite the assistance of their own sex, recommending the formation of District Committees where they

could be conveniently established, as one of the best means of co-operating with them. They also endeavoured, by the distribution of a series of queries, to collect information on the most material points relating to the situation of the female poor ; and considering that the establishment has been so recently formed, the support and assistance they have met with, have been such as to give great encouragement to hope for the gradual extension and increasing utility of the Institution.

The Society were fully sensible that the execution of such a plan must necessarily be slow, and its advantages, even when most real, frequently unobserved ; as they would rather arise from exciting and assisting the exertions of individuals, than from any striking operations of their own body. They were far from aiming at the establishment of any general system of management throughout the country. They were fully aware that the varieties of local situation and circumstances require that the modes of relief should be proportionably varied, and that their application can only be judiciously regulated by means of personal acquaintance. Much less did they conceive themselves capable of

applying pecuniary charity to greater advantage, than it can be directed by those who can personally superintend the distribution of their own bounty ; but they thought, that when the information they requested should have been collected from a variety of quarters, and a proper selection of the most interesting circumstances made public, much valuable assistance would be given towards directing the benevolent exertions of their own sex in the most advantageous manner. And as the printing and distribution of numerous papers, and the carrying on an extensive correspondence, could not fail to occasion considerable expense, they requested the assistance of a subscription for those purposes, in aid of the contributions furnished by the original members of the Society.

Having reason to believe, that even in the short interval which has elapsed, the Institution has not been unproductive of benefit, they beg with increased solicitude, and greater confidence, to call the attention of their sex to objects so deeply interesting to the welfare of so large a portion of their fellow-creatures. They particularly recommend to their care the superintendence of the education of the female poor,



hoping that they will be assisted in so interesting an occupation by the Clergy, whose aid and advice the Society in every instance most earnestly request. They have much pleasure in considering the extent to which this superintendence has already been carried, by the spontaneous efforts of individuals; and they trust that its importance will be more generally felt, and its difficulties gradually removed. When the extreme ignorance and incapacity of the persons, by whom the lower class of female children are usually taught are considered, the value of the assistance and occasional instruction of a woman of good principles and even tolerable education, will be justly estimated; and those objections, which diffidence and timidity may induce some Ladies to make, on the ground of their own unfitness, will be easily removed. And as this important service may be performed with very little, or even without any pecuniary sacrifice, it will enable the less wealthy most advantageously to compensate for their inability to furnish larger contributions. Among the principal objects of the education of youth (after that of inculcating sound principles of religion and morality) will be that of introducing habits of



industry and cleanliness, and instructing them in such arts and occupations, as are likely to contribute to the support and comfort of their families in future life. Many little domestic employments are familiar in particular parts of the country, which are unknown in others, where they might be introduced with equal benefit; and the disparity with respect to neatness and convenience observable in the households of the lower classes is equally striking, and may generally be traced to some difference in the education of the women.

But though the work of instruction is undertaken with most advantage, when addressed to the young, and operating upon minds unfettered by prejudice, and untainted by vicious habits, yet its effects upon the mature in age is by no means to be despaired of, when introduced by kindness, and illustrated by example. By such means, employed with judgment and perseverance, the principles of industry, frugality, and independence may often be introduced where they have not been acquired in early life; and nothing is more likely to produce such an improvement, and at the same time to confirm the beneficial effects of a virtuous education on the

minds of the young, than the establishment of female friendly societies, where circumstances will admit of them. The Ladies Society therefore feel a peculiar interest in the formation and success of such institutions, and are particularly desirous of obtaining any information which may tend to the improvement of their regulations and management.

With respect to the progress which the Institution has hitherto made, it must be recollected that it is yet in its infancy, and that its objects could be known only to those to whom the Ladies composing the Committee had some means of individually addressing themselves. The circulation of their papers was consequently limited, and the information they have hitherto obtained, has been collected from too narrow a circle to establish any general opinions respecting the state of the female poor. They have, however, had the satisfaction of finding as strong a sense entertained of the advantages of the establishment, and as much readiness to co-operate with it, as could reasonably be hoped for.

That in some instances their views should be misunderstood, was, from the novelty of the plan, to be expected; but there is every reason to

believe, that the gradual extension of their correspondence, and the means of explanation they can employ, will remove all misapprehension. The communications they have already received encourage them to hope that they shall be enabled in a short time to lay before the Subscribers, a selection of interesting papers.

In the mean time they earnestly wish to excite all the friends of the Institution to exert themselves in procuring such information as may form the ground work of their future proceedings, particularly on the points enumerated in their printed queries, and to impress upon their minds, that whatever tends to call the attention of the higher classes to the wants, the feelings, and the situation of the poor, cannot fail to strengthen the bonds of society, and to promote those sentiments of mutual good will, without which it cannot be happy or secure.

*London, Dec. 12, 1804.*

## No. XVII.

*Regulations of the Ladies Committee, for promoting  
the education and employment of the Female Poor.*

I. THAT every Subscriber of half-a-guinea annually, or of five guineas in one sum, shall be entitled to one copy of the Reports of the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor, and of all the publications of the Ladies Society ; and so in proportion for any larger subscription.

II. That the business of the Institution be conducted by the Ladies Committee.

III. That a President, six Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and two Assistant Secretaries be appointed annually, on the second Wednesday in May, by and out of the Committee.

IV. That every Lady subscribing one guinea or upwards annually, or giving ten guineas or upwards in one sum, shall be (subject to HER MAJESTY's approbation) eligible as a Member of the Committee.

V. That any Lady, so qualified, who may be

proposed for election as a Member of the Committee, shall be nominated one month at least previous to election, and the proposal be entered in the minute-book ; and when the names of seven Members of the Committee shall be subscribed to the nomination, the Committee shall proceed to election by ballot, when two black balls shall exclude. The Lady so elected will be submitted for HER MAJESTY'S approbation, as a Member of the Committee.

VI. That the attendance of three Members at least be necessary to form a Committee, but that no election take place in any meeting composed of less than five Members.

VII. That all questions be decided by the majority of votes, and if the numbers are equal, the President is to have a second or casting vote.

VIII. That Sub-Committees may be appointed by the Committee (consisting of two or more of its Members) for such purposes, and with such powers as the Committee may think fit to delegate to them.

IX. That the business of the Committee be previously prepared by Sub-Committees, and that the reports of the Sub-Committees be read in due order, immediately after the minutes of



the preceding meeting : and that no new matter be entered upon, until the business contained in the memoranda prepared by the Secretary is dispatched.

X. That no future regulations have effect until approved of by a subsequent meeting of the Committee ; and that no orders of a Subcommittee be binding (except by special authority), unless confirmed by the Committee.

XI. That the ordinary meeting of the Committee be holden on the second Wednesday in each month, at two o'clock precisely, or at such day and hour as the Committee shall adjourn to.

XII. That the Secretary may, by the direction of the President, summon a special Committee giving three days notice, but that no business shall be transacted in such Committee, excepting that which shall have been notified in the summons.

XIII. That subscriptions be received by Messrs. Ransom, Morland, and Co. Pall-Mall ; Messrs. Hoares, Fleet-street ; Messrs. Smith and Co. Mansion-house-street ; and Messrs. Down, Thornton, and Co. Bartholomew-lane ; where books are opened for the receipt of subscriptions ; or by the collector, Mr. David Brooks,

No. 1, Boswell-court, Queen-square ; and that drafts on account of the Society be made by order of the Committee, and be entered in the minutes of the day, and be signed by the President, and a Vice President, or one other member, and be countersigned by the Treasurer or Secretary.

XIV. That District Committees, or other Societies formed in the country for purposes similar to the objects of this Society, be entitled to one copy of each publication for every half-guinea subscribed by them, in like manner as an individual subscriber.

XV. That every annual subscriber shall pay her subscription in the first week in January, and that no lady shall be considered as a member of the Society longer than while her subscription is paid within six months after that day.

XVI. That every annual subscription be for the whole of the current year, and do entitle the subscribers to copies of all publications for the year.

XVII. That a General Meeting of the subscribers be holded in the month of May in every year, to receive a report on the finance of the Society, and of the transactions of the preceeding year.

No. XVIII.

*List of the Ladies Committee for promoting the  
Education and Employment of the Female Poor.*

PATRONESS,  
HER MAJESTY.

VICE-PATRONESSES,  
THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE  
PRINCESSES.

PRESIDENT.  
The Right Hon. Lady Teignmouth.

VICE PRESIDENTS.  
The Dowager Duchess of Leeds,  
The Countess Harcourt,  
The Countess of Lonsdale,  
The Right Hon. Lady Radstock,  
The Hon. Mrs. Wortley,  
The Hon. Mrs. Harcourt,

*Secretary*—Miss Vansittart,  
*Assistant Secretary*—Mrs. Robert Thornton.

*The other Members of the Ladies Committee.*  
The Duchess of Somerset,  
The Marchioness Townshend,

The Marchioness of Downshire,  
The Dowager Marchioness of Donegal,  
The Marchioness of Sligo,  
The Countess of Pembroke,  
The Countess of Effingham,  
The Countess of Malmsbury,  
The Viscountess Cremorne,  
The Right Hon. Lady Louisa Stuart,  
The Right Hon. Lady Caroline Damer,  
The Right Hon. Lady Elizabeth Percival,  
The Right Hon. Lady Elizabeth Palk,  
The Right Hon. Lady Hawkesbury,  
The Right Hon. Lady Pelham,  
The Hon. Mrs. James York,  
The Hon. Mrs. Barrington,  
The Hon. Mrs. Robinson,  
Mrs. Addington,  
Mrs. Porteus,  
Mrs. Weddell,  
Mrs. Goodenough,  
Mrs. Wilberforce,  
Mrs. Ross,  
Mrs. Preston,  
Mrs. Henry Calvert,  
Mrs. Henry Thornton.

## No. XIX.

*Resolutions of the Mortlake Society for promoting  
the Welfare of the Poor.*

*The following are the Regulations of a Society, formed at Mortlake, on the 23d of Nov. 1804, for the purpose of promoting the Education and Employment of the Female Poor by means of a Ladies Committee, and also by the co-operation of a Gentleman's Committee, to endeavour to benefit the Poor of the other sex,—to assist the administration of charity—and to increase the moral and religious habits of the Poor in general. The Society is already supported by Sixty Subscribers; and from the nature of the Subscription and Plan, it is hoped that it will soon be much more generally extended in the Parish.*

I. **T**HAT we will direct our attention to the promotion of the welfare, and to the improvemant of the moral and religious character, of the poor of the parish of Mortlake.

2. That in the administration of our charity,



we will endeavour not merely to relieve distress, but to encourage industry, prudence, and religious habits, among the poor.

3. That for this purpose we will make enquiry, respecting persons applying for charity ;

whether they are willing and active, in doing such work, as they can obtain and are capable of ;

whether they are neat and careful in their families, and in husbanding their means of life ; and

whether they are regular in their attendance on church, and in avoiding profaneness and immorality.

4. That a Book be kept to note the attendance at church, of all persons applying for charitable assistance ; distinguishing, when the absence of them, or of any their families has been caused by infirmity, or other sufficient excuse.

5. That a Register be kept of all objects of charity in the parish ; so as to make any improvement of character, a motive for increased kindness and encouragement.

6. That the Society do exert itself to promote the MORAL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION of the Poor of Mortlake.

7. That for this purpose a select Committee be appointed to enquire into, and report what poor children there are, in the parish of Mortlake, without means of education.

8. That the said select Committee consist of the Rev. Mr. Collinson, Mr. Gilpin, and Mr. Richard Henry King.

9. That the Ladies, who are Subscribers to the Society, be requested to select from their own members a LADY PRESIDENT and a LADIES COMMITTEE, for promoting the education and employment, and improving the condition and character of the Female Poor in the Parish.

10. That after providing for the general expenses of the Society, one half of the residue of the Society's funds be placed under the disposal of such Committee.

11. That the Ladies' Committee be desired to subscribe one guinea a year to the Ladies Committee in London; so as to be intitled to have two copies of all their papers and communications, and of all the Reports and Publications of the Society for bettering the Condition of the Poor; and that such Subscription be paid out of the general fund of this Society.

12. That this Society do proceed as soon as conveniently may be, to elect a GENTLEMAN'S COMMITTEE, for promoting the education and employment of poor boys, and for improving the conduct, character, and condition of the Male Poor in the Parish.

13. That the other half of the residue of the Society's funds be in the disposal of the Gentleman's Committee.

14. That upon the election of the Gentleman's Committee, the Society proceed also to elect a PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENTS, TREASURER, AND SECRETARY.

15. That as soon as the Ladies Committee and Gentleman's Committee are formed, a List of the Committees and of the Subscribers to the Society, be printed, and sent round to the Subscribers.

16. That these Resolutions, together with the Subscribers Names, be printed and sent round to all the Subscribers, and also to the Householders of the Parish of Mortlake.

17. That in order to extend the Subscription generally among the Householders of the Parish, and among the different branches of the families of more opulent Members, the Sub-

scription be limited to Five Shillings for each Subscriber.

18. That a Copy of these Resolutions be transmitted to the Ladies Committee in London.

19. That the Rev. Mr. Collinson be requested to receive Subscriptions in behalf of the Society, until a Treasurer is appointed.

20. That the Select Committee be desired to call a meeting of the Society, as soon as they are able to make any Report.

Signed, by desire of the Meeting,

JOHN COLLINSON.

23d Nov. 1804.

## No. XX.

QUERIES RESPECTING FEMALE EDUCATION  
AND EMPLOYMENT.

*The following Queries, respecting Female Education and Employment, have been circulated by the Ladies Committee; in the hope that those, who have it in their power to return Answers to any of the Queries, will have the goodness to transmit them to the Secretary of the Ladies Committee, at No. 190, Piccadilly.*

1. **W**HAT number of Charity Schools for female children are contained in your vicinity, and by what funds are they supported?
2. What is the number of children lodged, boarded, clothed or instructed in them, what are they taught, and at what expesne?
3. At what age are the girls admitted, how long do they remain at school, and what proficiency have they usually attained when they leave it, with respect to the different branches of instruction?



4. Are any of the children apprenticed by the school, and to what occupations?

5. Have you any Sunday Schools near you, what number of children are instructed in them, at what expense, and with what success are they attended?

6. In what manner is religious instruction communicated, and particularly in what way are the Scriptures and Catechism explained to the children, and impressed upon their minds?

7. Are there any Schools of Industry, in what kind of work are the children employed in them: what do they earn, how are their earnings applied, and what is the total expense?

8. Under what superintendence are the schools placed: how are the Mistresses qualified, and do the Ladies in the neighbourhood visit them?

9. Are there any persons in your vicinity who appear to be peculiarly qualified for school-mistresses?

10. Is there a general disposition in such of the poor about you as are capable, to communicate instruction to their children, what proportion of the female children do you conceive to be instructed in reading, and are many applications made for admittance into the schools?

11. Are there in your neighbourhood any particular impediments to the success of education arising from local circumstances or customs, and are you aware how they might be removed?

12. Is there any thing peculiar in the mode of instruction or the system of management of any of the above schools which is worthy of notice, and which of the plans have you found to be most successful?

13. What is the general state of education among the poor women in your neighbourhood, and what proportion do you suppose to be capable of reading or writing?

14. Do they generally understand plain work, and keep their houses and families as neat as their circumstances admit?

15. Are spinning and knitting in use among them: what occupations do they follow independent of the care of their families, and in which do you conceive them to be most usefully and profitably employed?

16. Can those who are desirous of employment in their own habitations be constantly supplied with it, and are you aware of any new occupations which might be introduced to advantage?

17. Are there any manufactories in which themselves or their children are employed?

18. Are women or girls employed in field-work, and in what manner?

19. What effect have the employments in which the female poor are generally engaged in your neighbourhood, upon their health, their comforts, and their morals, and what improvements can you suggest in any of these respects?

20. Do the female poor generally attend divine worship, and do they form with each other arrangements to facilitate the attendance of those who have families?

21. Are any Societies established in your neighbourhood for the encouragement of good servants?

22. Are there any female friendly societies, what are their regulations, and in what respect are they capable of improvement?

23. Is there any charitable institution for assisting the female poor at the period of their lying-in, and under what regulations?

24. Are the poor easily supplied with milk, and is there any plan adopted for the purpose of furnishing them with it?

## No. XXI.

## A CLERGYMAN'S LEGACY TO HIS PARISHIONERS.

*The following interesting and valuable Legacy was written by that excellent and exemplary man, the Reverend Mr. Gilpin of Boldre, a few months before his death; and by his direction distributed among his parishioners, on the day of his funeral. It is most gratifying, to behold the principled and constant purpose of true Christian benevolence,—that of contributing to the temporal and eternal happiness of our fellow-creatures,—preserved by Mr. Gilpin with entire and unvaried direction, to the extreme limit and closing hour of his life. Let us rejoice that tho he hath passed the gates of death, and is gone to receive his reward, yet in his works he still liveth, to exhort us to religion and virtue, and to admonish us to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.*

As the last advice of a dying friend may have often a better effect than his living advice, I

have ordered these few rules, by brethren, to be printed, and distributed among you at my funeral. They contain the sum of what instruction I may, at different times, have given you.

The great end for which GOD ALMIGHTY sent us into this world, I have often informed you, is to fit us for heaven. Why GOD, instead of making us happy at once, thought proper to lead us to a state of happiness in heaven, through a state of trial in this world, is a question we have nothing to do with. It is GOD's pleasure it should be so ; and we have only to submit to his means of making us happy, and to take it for granted they are the best.—We are to consider ourselves, therefore, as placed in this world, as in a school of preparation to fit us for the next, by laying aside all wickedness ; and fitting ourselves for a state of purity. I shall therefore give a few rules to shew you, what is chiefly required of us, in our passage, through this world.

To GOD our first duties are owing. As we receive all from GOD, he has a claim on the utmost of our love and gratitude. Through him



we live: through him we are preserved: and through his mercy we are redeemed, by the tonement of CHRIST, from the evil consequences of sin. To him therefore we should shew our gratitude by daily prayer. Make him your friend, by a good life, and through faith in the merits of a BLESSED REDEEMER, you may hope to be accepted by him. He will support you, when every thing else fails.

Whoever neglects the church can have little regard for religion: and he who neglects the sacrament, can have as little for the dying commands of that SAVIOUR, who died for his sins.

Never let an oath come out of your mouth. As there is no temptation to swear, it is, in fact, doing the devil's wages for nothing.

Be honest and fair in your dealings. Trick-ing and cheating serve only a *present occasion*. They never turn out well in the end.—Consider also, that if you are in any parish office, it is as unjust to cheat the parish, as to cheat a neighbour. Indeed it is worse, as you break a trust.

Take care not to get a habit of drinking. As drunkenness includes every vice and folly;

nothing is more offensive to God. The man is turned into a beast. Consider also, that there is no vice more easily learned. A few times going to the alehouse will form a habit.

In your meetings with each other, never speak ill of those who are absent: be not rough, and abusive to those who are present: and never defile your lips with lewd and filthy discourse. Such discourse shews you have corrupt hearts yourselves, and tends to corrupt others.

Be industrious in your callings. Do the best you can yourselves; but leave the event to God.

In your families be kind and gentle. Spend what you earn, at home, not on yourselves. Instruct your children as well as you can; and above all things, set them a good example. If the father lets his son hear him swear, or see him get drunk, or cheat, he must not wonder if his son turns out ill.

Young men who have the same wages as those who have families, ought to lay by a little every week. It will teach them to be frugal, and enable them, when they have families, to furnish a house.

Do these things, and you will be happier in this world than wickedness can make you: and I hope we shall all meet again together in a blessed eternity hereafter; which is the sincere prayer of

*Your affectionate Minister,*

WM. GILPIN.

*Vicar's Hill, 5th April, 1804.*

## No. XXII.

*The fifth annual Report of the Schools of Industry  
at Kendal.*

AFTER a succession of delays, occasioned chiefly by other engagements occupying the time of those who were appointed to draw up the Report, the Committee are at length enabled to render to the Subscribers an account of the fifth year of this Institution.

It is hoped that the state of the Roll\* will afford

\* The following was the state of the Schools in May, 1804.

Girls employed in knitting	- - - - -	43
sewing	- - - - -	7
plattling	- - - - -	4
sewing and knitting	- - -	1
sewing and plattling	- - -	20
at home	- - - - -	1
unemployed	- - - - -	4
Blue-coat Girls	- - - - -	13
		— 93
Boys employed in card-setting	- - - - -	13
at home	- - - - -	3
		— 16

Total 109

The amount of subscriptions and benefactions in the preceding year was 104*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, and of payments for children's schooling 43*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* The total expense of the schools, including salaries, rent, rewards, &c. &c. amounted to 125*l.*

a satisfactory proof that the plan begins to be more generally understood and approved by those for whose benefit it was designed.—On comparing the subjoined statement with that of the preceding year, it will be seen that, in the course of twelve months, there was an accession of thirty Scholars; and since the accounts for the year were made up, there has been a still farther increase; the number on the roll for the week ending September 28th, 1804, being *thirty-one boys, and one hundred and seventeen girls*. It should also be mentioned that *changes* among the scholars become less and less frequent, which is owing principally to the circumstance stated in a former report, that the candidates for admission are in general *very young*. It occasionally happens still that older children apply, and it is chiefly among these, that what remains of fluctuation yet prevails: indeed it is to be apprehended, that the institution will never arrive at any thing like complete stability, till it have existed long enough to be filled entirely with those who have imbibed their first rudiments within its walls.

In the last report it was mentioned that the manufacture of split straw was introduced upon



trial. This branch of employment has fully answered the expectations formed of it: many girls, who could not earn 1s. 6d. per week at any other work, have earned 2s. 6d. or 3s. at this; some have been able to earn 5s. per week. But the intention is not that girls should be kept constantly at this, or any other kind of work, merely on account of its being lucrative, to the neglect of more *useful* qualifications: its proper use is, that, by dividing their time between plating and sewing, girls may acquire a tolerable proficiency in the latter, and yet not be a dead weight to their parents in the mean time.

In the course of the last year, a new arrangement has taken place with regard to the Blue-Coat Girls, by which there will be a saving of public money to the amount of 40*l.* per annum, and upwards; a sum which may be advantageously applied, in various ways, to promote the great cause of education and good morals.—It had been before concluded to elect the Blue-Coat Girls out of the Schools of Industry exclusively; but instead of being at the expense of keeping up a separate establishment, as a school for these girls, it has been agreed to *clothe* thirty of the most deserving in the Schools of Industry.

And in return the Committee engaged the late teacher of the Blue-Coat School to be their Sewing-Mistress.

With a view, also, to draw still closer the amicable connexion subsisting among the three several charities for education, in this town, it has lately been resolved that no child shall be entitled to any premium or immunity in the Schools of Industry, who cannot produce a certificate of attendance at the *Sunday Schools*. To borrow a phrase well known in seminaries of a higher order, children cannot otherwise be *admitted on the foundation*; for there is one description of scholars to whom this rule is not meant to apply. These are the children of respectable mechanics, who have lately found it their interest to avail themselves of the cheap education which the Schools of Industry afford; and so far are they from being a burden to the institution, that they are at once a sanction, by contributing to establish its character among their less considerate neighbours, and a direct benefit, inasmuch as their school wages diminish the current expense.

And herein consits the great natural advantage which this institution possesses over charity

schools where nothing is paid by the children, that while *their* ability to extend themselves, is limited within certain bounds, the resources of *this*, are continually increasing, with increasing numbers. It may even be demonstrated that, with a given number of scholars, and a building which would permit the plan of employing children as teachers to be more extensively adopted, the school wages would suffice to defray every current expense, and thus leave the whole subscription to be applied in procuring still more durable and valuable benefits for its objects.

On referring to the accounts, it might appear as if considerable approximation were already made to such a desirable state of things; the receipts for school wages being about two thirds of the disbursements for teachers' salaries: but it is only fair to mention that the amount of these salaries, last year, is greatly below the average, and that for more than half of the year the establishment itself was defective: the Sewing-Mistress being unavoidably prevented from entering on her office, till a very short time before the accounts for the year were closed. The Reading-Master's salary

was also much lower than at present. The weekly payments to teachers, at one time, did not exceed 1*l.* 1*s.* But even now when they amount to 1*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, the average balance is not more than from 7*s.* to 8*s.*, or little more than  $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* per child. So little would it cost, with proper arrangements, to give a suitable education to every poor child in this great and wealthy nation!

It will be seen that a less sum is charged for *premiums* than formerly: because the *blue clothing* renders it unnecessary to give other premiums in the Sewing-School.

No steps have yet been taken to establish a Benefit-Society in connexion with these Schools, but the utility of such a measure is as obvious as ever, and the Committee have to acknowledge the receipts of two benefactions given for the express purpose of forwarding it, viz. 80*l.* from the Society of Friends in Kendal, and 10*l.* from James Harris, Esq., whose former liberality has already been recorded. These sums, added to the savings which the present state of the establishment has enabled the Committee to make, appear nearly sufficient to set the scheme

on foot, and it is hoped another year will see it realized.

In the mean time, it may not be uninteresting to describe a very simple expedient which has contributed not a little to attach children to the schools. The premiums which are given to scholars for increased earnings, are not paid to them immediately, but are deposited in a box, to which they and their parents are exhorted to add a portion of their savings, from time to time, till the whole accumulate to a sum sufficient to purchase such articles of clothing as they are most in need of; and for every shilling so saved, a premium of a penny is added from the fund. The effect of this contrivance has been very beneficially felt: if children once get the smallest stake in the box, they generally go on: and many a poor child has thus in time come to be clad like its more decent schoolfellows, without its parents being sensible of the expense, or without their own frugality being superseded by gratuitous bounty.

*1st Oct. 1804.*



## No. XXIII.

*The following Paper has been distributed by a Society called "THE ENDEAVOUR SOCIETY, " to promote Unity and Charity, according " to the Principles of the Established Church " of England." It is recommended to be pasted up, for view, in every House. As the Insertion of it in the Reports, may possibly contribute to its being printed and disseminated, for the Benefit of the Poor in other Places, it is added here; with the Notes marking the different Passages referred to.*

## ON HEALTH.

**W**E are exposed to so many dangers every day of our lives, that we must own **HEALTH** is a gift which cometh from the Lord. In him we live and move, and have our being (a). In the midst of life we are in death (b): and therefore

(a) Acts xvii. 28. (b) Office for the burial of the dead, in the Common Prayer-book.

our health and preservation which is granted us for the discharge of our active duties, demand our constant gratitude and thankfulness to God. For this especially therefore, our *prayer should be joined with* THANKSGIVING (a). And the best way to shew our thankfulness is *by doing our duty in that state of life to which it hath pleased God to call us* (b) : in the regular discharge of our religious duties ; and a diligent, honest and sober exercise of our lawful employment, *to provide what is honest in the sight of all men* (c), for ourselves and families (d), and that we may have something to give to them that are in greater need and want than ourselves (e), being always ready and willing to help others, as we should like them to assist us (f). We must thus employ our health in promoting the glory of God, the good of others, and our own salvation. We must pray to God in private every night and morning at the least, to beg his protection, direction, and blessing, to praise him for his daily mercies, and beg his forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

(a) Phillip. iv. 6. and Psalm lxxviii. 19. (b) Church Catechism. (c) Rom. xii. 17. (d) 1 Tim. v. 8. (e) Ephes. iv. 28. Deut. xvi. 17. Tobit, iv. 8. (f) Matt. vii. 12.

And if we have families we must pray *for* them, and also *with* them. We must instruct them in religion, by reading to them, and conversing with them at all convenient and proper opportunities, as *Abraham* was commanded to do: *Thou shalt teach them diligently*, says God, *and talk to them, when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way* (a). We must receive our food *with thankfulness* (b), and say grace before and after our meals. We must HONOUR the holy NAME of God (c), his DAY (d), his HOUSE, his WORD, and his MINISTERS (e) the regular clergy. We must honor the holy NAME (f) of God by not taking it in vain, calling upon it rashly, or using it carelessly in our common discourse. We must never swear by it, but when lawful authority commands it, *when an oath for confirmation is to make an end of all strife* (g). We must honour his DAY by remembering to keep it holy (h), as being sanctified and set apart for the more particular duties of religion. We must attend the service of his

(a) Deut. vi. 7. (b) 1 Cor. x. 31. (c) Exod. xx. 7.  
(d) Exod. xx. ver. 8 to 12. (e) John xx. 21. Mark, iii. 14.  
Matt. xxiii. 2, 3. 1 Cor. ix. 13, 14. (f) Exod. xx. 7. (g)  
Heb. vi. 16. (h) Exod. xx. ver. 8 to 12.

HOUSE, the CHURCH, and *reverence God's sanctuary* (a) by a proper behaviour there, kneeling down at the prayers (b), standing up at the Psalms (c), when they are read and sung; and sitting down at the lessons and sermon: we must not give way to sleep, idle postures, or wandering thoughts, but be attentive, and try to remember all we can in order to direct our practice. We must read in the BIBLE, which *is the word of God* (d), the COMMON PRAYER-BOOK, and other proper books: and we must think and talk about what we have heard, and read, for the direction of our lives: *knowing that we must not only be hearers, but DOERS of the word* (e). Thus we should hallow, or keep holy his sacred day; all *acts of charity, and necessity*, are proper, because they are parts of our duty: but to prevent all needless work, NEVER DO THAT ON SUNDAY, WHICH MAY BE DONE AS WELL ON ANOTHER DAY. We must submit ourselves to his MINISTERS, the regular CLERGY, as our *spiritual pastors* (f).

(a) Levit. xix. 30. (b) Luke, xxii. 41. Acts, ix. 40. xx. 36. 2 Chron. vi. 13. Daniel, vi. 10. Psalm, xcv. 6. (c) Nehem. ix. 5. Rev. vii. 9, 10. (d) Isaiah, xl. 8. Luke, iv. 4. chap. v. i. 1 John, iii. 34. Acts, iv. 31. vi. 2. xiii. 7, 44. Rom. ix. 6. x. 17. (e) James, i. 22. (f) Church Catechism.

We should attend to their instructions in public, in our parish church, and ask their advice in private whenever we want to be informed about our duty; and more especially that we *may not be carried about with every wind of doctrine* (a); remembering that *the priest's lips are to keep knowledge* (b), and *they are appointed to watch over our souls, as those who are to give account* (c).

We must be sober, honest, and industrious, in the discharge of our lawful employment: to provide for ourselves and families: that we may maintain them with honesty, taking care of their bodies, to render them healthy, and bringing them up in habits of cleanliness, civility, and industry: teaching them their duty, by good instruction and example: and reproofing whatever is sinful, or may lead to it. We should avoid running into debt (d). We should honestly pay *what we owe* (e): and guard our *thoughts* (f), *words* (g), and *actions* (h).—We must be *merciful* to ANIMALS.

(a) Ephes. iv. 14. (b) Malac, ii. 7. (c) Heb. xiii. 17.  
(d) Rom. xiii. 8. (e) Matt. xviii. 28. (f) Rom. ii. 15. and  
Heb. iv. 12. (g) Matt. xxii. 37. and Ephes. iv. 29. (h)  
1 Samuel, ii. 3. and 2 Cor. v. 10, 11.



We should be ready and willing *to do unto others, as we should wish them to do unto us* (a). There are many ways by which the poor may assist others (b), as well as the rich, *if there be first a willing mind* (c), which God has promised to accept and bless (d). Every one may shew a good example to others: be kind and civil in behaviour to them. Read to them, or with them, especially if they cannot read, which makes it a very great charity; lend them proper books; mind their house or family when they are from home; lend them what can conveniently be spared, when they may want it; help them in their work or employment, when there is an opportunity to do so; save their time or trouble, by bringing for them what they may want from the place you are going to; visiting them in sickness, or going to see them when they are ill or confined: helping to nurse them; giving them their *medicine* regularly; dressing their food; talking with them, and advising them; and many other things of the same nature. All which are great acts of charity from one to another, and only require a readiness to DO UNTO

(a) Matt. vii. 12. (b) 1 John, iii. 17. (c) 2 Cor. viii. 12.  
(d) Heb. vi. 10, 11.

OTHERS AS WE WOULD WISH THEY SHOULD DO UNTO US (a). Whenever we see others afflicted, or exposed to accident, or misfortune, or such as have been so, we should be thankful to God that we are spared, *remembering that we are all worthy of punishment* (b). *Let us not be high-minded, but fear* for ourselves (c). We should pray for them, and let it be a lesson to ourselves, knowing that *we* may have deserved it more than they (d), or having received it in part, know that *God has punished us, less than we have deserved* (e). We may exercise this thankfulness and piety every day, when meeting with those who are lame, blind, sick, infirm, or the like. If we thus employ our health, and thankfully endeavour to promote the glory of God, the good of others, and our own salvation; repent of what we do amiss, and beg the forgiveness of God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, and by his grace do so no more, we shall not be unprepared for any event that may befall us. *Our souls will prosper, and be in health* (f): we shall secure the favour and mercy of God, *and in the*

(a) Matt. vii. 12. (b) Heb. xii. 5, 6. (c) Rom. xi. 20.  
(d) Luke, xiii. 4, 5. (e) Ezra, ix. 13. (f) 3d Epist. of John,  
verse 2.

*time of any tribulation, or trial, in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment, he will deliver us (a) : and we shall be prepared and disposed to enter into the joy of our Lord, through the merits of Jesus Christ our blessed Redeemer.*

### IN SICKNESS,

we should consider that it is sent to IMPROVE US IN VIRTUE, and to CORRECT OUR SINS ; when we bring it on ourselves, it shews us the folly and danger of doing so. Sin thus produces its own punishment, and is mercifully designed to work *repentance to salvation* (b). *When men live dissolutely, and unrighteously, they are tormented with their own abominations* (c). *Despise not, therefore, the chastening of the Lord ; for whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth* (d). So that if we improve it as we ought, we shall *grow in grace* (e), and have reason to say *it was good for us that we were afflicted* (f). We must bear it with patience, and try to improve it to God's glory and our own salvation, by calling to mind our sins, repenting of them, and begging

(a) The Litany. (b) 2 Cor. vii. 10. (c) Wisdom, xii. 23.

(d) Heb. xii. 5, 6. Job, v. 17. Prov. iii. 11. (e) 2 Peter, iii. 18. (f) Psalm, cxix. 71.

God's mercy and forgiveness through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, resolving by his grace to avoid them for the time to come. *In thy sickness, be not negligent, but pray unto the Lord: leave off from sin, and order thy hands* (that is, thy ways) *aright, and cleanse thy heart from all wickedness, by repentance.* This will be a *sweet savour* to God, and an *offering* that he will accept through his Son (a). We should send to the clergyman of our parish, and desire his advice and direction, as *he is appointed to watch over our souls, as one that must give account* (b). This should be done at the *beginning* of the illness, that we may have the more time to profit by it, and that the increase of the illness itself may not prevent our receiving all the advantage of his *ghostly counsel and advice* (c) by making us insensible, or unable to attend to him, from pain or any other cause. *A death-bed repentance has no certainty*, because it has no foundation. The *fear of death* has made many persons *promise and vow*, what they never *performed* afterwards, when they recovered. God would not accept of what he saw was not

(a) Ecclus. xxxviii. 9, 10, 11. (b) Heb. xiii. 17. (c) Communion office in the Common Prayer-book.



sincere. There is no *proof* of sincerity but *reformation*. Faith and repentance produce good works (a). *Health* is the time to shew these fruits, and not a death-bed. Besides, we may be taken off by *sudden death*, and those who neglect God in health, have the least reason to expect his mercies at the *time*, or in the *manner* of their death. So that while our excellent church teaches us to pray, *from sudden death, good Lord deliver us* (b), that we may not be cut off *in our wickedness* (c), it is our duty to be *always ready* (d) by *leading the life of the righteous* (e). Remember the parable of the virgins: *the foolish ones were shut out* (f). We must also use all lawful and proper means for the recovery of our health, be thankful for them, pray for a blessing upon them, and leave the event to God. *The Lord hath created MEDICINES out of the earth, and he that is wise will not abhor, but make a proper use and application of them. And he hath given men SKILL that HE might be honoured in his marvellous works: of these works there*

(a) James, ii. 13, 20. (b) The Litany. (c) Psalm, xciv. 23. Bible Translation. Prov. ii. 22. (d) Matt. xxiv. 44. and Luke, xii. 40. (e) Numb. xxiii. 10. (f) Matt. xxv. verse 1 to 13.



*is no end, and from such the Lord granteth peace over all the earth by the renewal of health and strength. Therefore give place to the physician, for the Lord hath created him; let him not go from thee, for thou hast need of him. THERE IS A TIME when in their hands THERE IS GOOD SUCCESS. For THEY also shall PRAY unto the Lord, that HE would prosper that which THEY give for EASE AND REMEDY TO PROLONG LIFE (a). Therefore as they who sin, are punished with sickness, and fall into the hands of the physician (b), so the Lord hath created him, that he may lift up thy head, heal thee, and take away thy pains (c); and as God grants him honour from men, so is he commanded to honour and pray to God, for good success, and to be THANKFUL for it, for of the Most High alone cometh healing (d). Desire the prayers of the church, and shew a good example to those about you: be kind to them, and thankful for their assistance. Read in the office for the visitation of the sick (e), and in that for the burial of the dead (e), or have them read to you: and*

(a) Eccus. xxxviii. 4, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14. (b) Eccus. xxxviii. 15, (c) Eccus. xxxviii. 1, 3, 7. (d) Eccus. xxxviii. 1, 14, 2. (e) Common Prayer-book; see also Stanhope's Meditations and Prayers for Sick Persons, sold by Messrs, Rivingtons, St. Paul's Church-yard, price 3d.

use such of the prayers as may be suitable to your state: remembering that the *grave may be ready for you* (a), for every *sickness may be unto death* (b). If it pleases God that you should RECOVER, remember it is THE LORD *who healeth thee* (c); *God is the Lord by whom you escape death* (d), be thankful to him for it, for of the *Most High alone cometh healing* (e). Do this in your private prayers daily; and also in THE CHURCH, at your first opportunity. Praise him for his mercy, *that tho he hath chastened and corrected you, he hath not given you over unto death*: that he hath enabled you to say, *I shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord. Open me the gates of righteousness, that I may go into them, and GIVE THANKS unto the Lord. I will THANK him, for he has heard me and become my salvation* (f); *he has restored health unto me, and healed me* (g). Therefore open to me this *gate of the Lord*; those who are *righteous* or wish to be so, *will enter into it* (h). He hath blessed the means used for your recovery, and given

(a) Job, xvii. 1. (b) Isa. xxxviii. 1. John, xi. 4. (c) Exod. xv. 26. (d) Psalm, lxxviii. 20. (e) Ecclus. xxxviii. 2. (f) Psalm, cxviii. 17, 18, 19, 21. (g) Jerem. xxx. 17. (h) Psalm, cxviii. 20.

you an opportunity to glorify his name, by shewing the sincerity of your good resolutions, and *the vows you made when you was in trouble* (a). Thus will you shew that you *have* profited by *the chastening of the Lord*, and rejoicing in his mercy, shew forth your thankfulness by obeying his commands, and endeavouring *to serve him truly all the days of your life* (b).

(a) Psalm, lxvi. 12. (b) Church Catechism.

## No. XXIV.

*The following Receipt has been practised in Yorkshire for saving Coals to the Poor, and to the Rich also, if they please; and has proved economical and useful. When it has answered in Yorkshire, it may be presumed, that it will be serviceable where coals are scarce and dear. It is therefore offered to the Reader.*

As we now have so many factories and manufactories in this neighbourhood, every project for a saving in coals ought to be instantly attended to; but tho this is true enough, am doubtful whether I shall have many thanks for my discovery, tho I give it without payment, so hard a matter it is to shove people out of their beaten track:—However I am resolved, come what will, to open my secret, which is this:—

TAKE the ashes and small cinders which fall from the fire, and saturate or fill them very well with water, till they are like the mortar used by bricklayers:—That being done, put them on the back part of your fire; when those who have

not made the experiment, will be surprised to find what a pleasant fire they make in conjunction with coal, and will answer any common purpose:—by this means poor people never need to carry their ashes to the dunghill, but burn up every atom.

Publicans, that use large fires, would find their account in *crowning* them with this *mortar*; as it would be more agreeable to the philosophic smokers than coals themselves.

In stoves, under boilers, and on many other occasions where a dead or flat heat is wanted, this mortar would be of great service in conjunction with coal, as by its means the fire may be kept of a sufficient and steady heat for a considerable time with very little addition.

As to Gentlemen, I know that they will do as they please; but tho they may not choose to practice my *Receipt*, if they would give some of their ashes, which are commonly half cinders, to their poor neighbours, and tell them how they should be *manufactured*, they would do an essential piece of service to the public.

Some may object, and say, that, If *all* the ashes are to be consumed, what must we do for tillage? —Don't be alarmed:—If one in twenty avail



themselves of this hint, it will be as many as I expect. I should, indeed, have small hopes of its being at all attended to, tho winter looks us in the face, were it not for the ingenuity and perseverance of some good old housewives, who, when there is a prospect of usefulness or advantage, will spare no pains to accomplish the end.

*Method of preparing the Mortar.*

Draw the ashes to the front of the fire-place, and having made a hole in the middle of them, pour on water to suit the quantity of ashes ; then let them soak a few minutes, and they will mix themselves without being touched, because if stirred at the first they will *daub* the hearth ; but by giving them time to mix, the small matter of wet on the hearth will soon be dried by the fire, and leave it clean as before : or you may, if you please, have a private corner out of doors for the sole purpose of mixing them. A little practice will make mixing this mortar as easy and familiar as going to a cart and buying a two-penny basket of coals.

SAVE-ALL.

*Leeds, Nov. 12, 1804.*

No. XXV.

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